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Reference	Mss Eur F126/40
Title	Manuscript copies of correspondence between Pelly and the Political Department, Bombay.
Date(s)	3 Dec 1864-8 Jul 1872 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file, 21 items (73 folios)
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
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About this record

Copies of official correspondence to and from Lewis Pelly, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf; Charles Gonne, Secretary to the Government of Bombay; the Political Agent at Muscat (Colonel Herbert Disbrowe, Captain George Andrew Atkinson) and the Secretaries to the Government of India (Charles Girdlestone, William Muir). There is also enclosed correspondence on behalf of the Secretary of State for India (Sir Stafford Northcote, The Duke of Argyll, The Marquess of Salisbury, and the Viscount Cranbrook) and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (the Earl of Clarendon).

The correspondence covers three main areas in relation to affairs in the Persian Gulf:

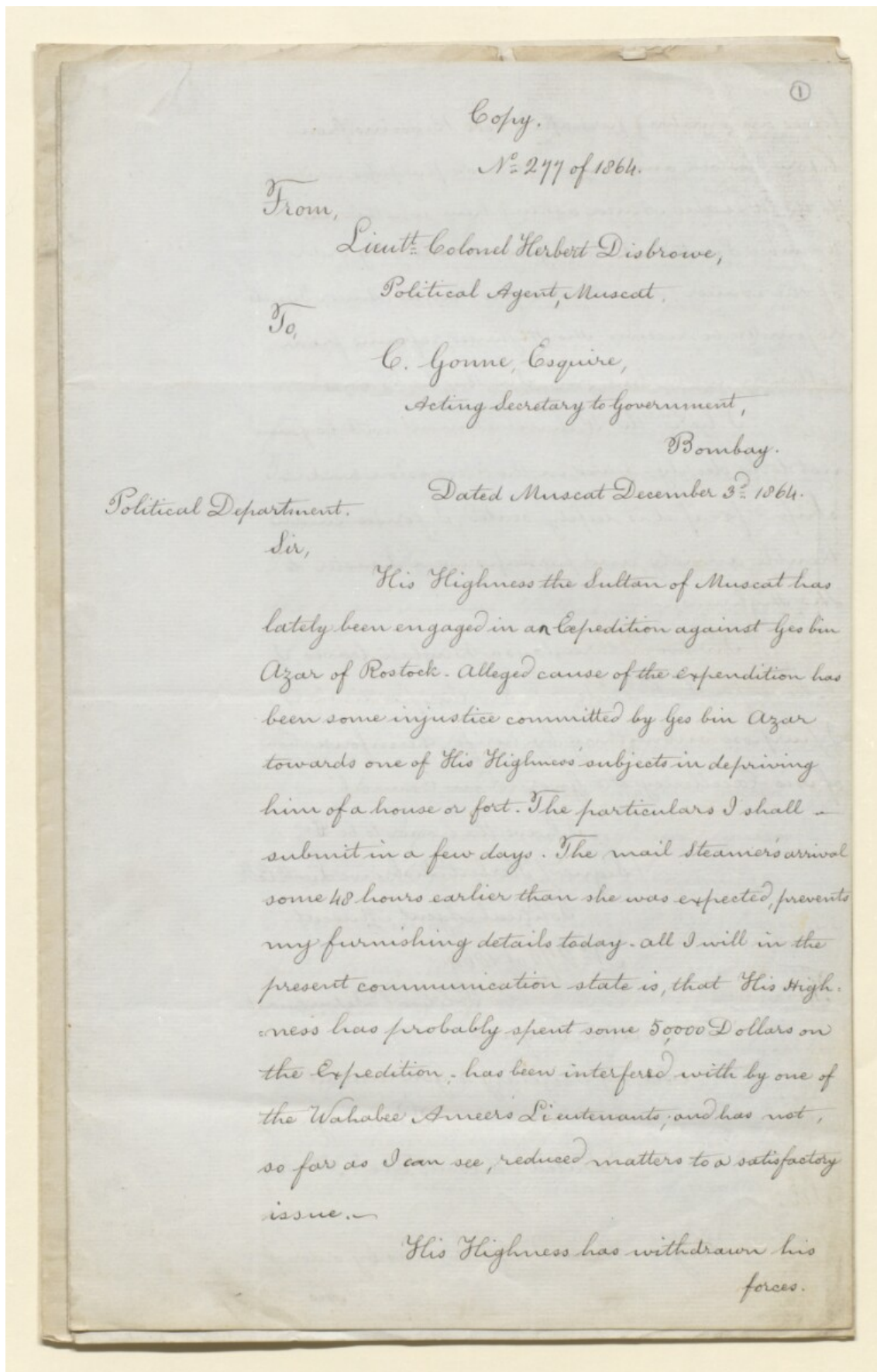
The situation in Muscat including the dispute between the Sultan of Muscat and the Wahabees [Wahhabi]; threats to the Sultanate from Ibrahim bin Qais and Azzan bin Qais; and the attempts by Sayyid Turki bin Said al-Said to overthrow his nephew Sayyid Salim II bin Thuwaini al-Said.

The resolution of affairs in relation to Bahrein [Bahrain], Guttur [Qatar] and Aboothabee [Abu Dhabi] following acts of plunder and aggression undertaken by members of their tribes against Persian and Arabian towns and villages. The correspondence refers to Bahrein and Aboothabee's reaffirmation of their commitment to the maritime peace treaty and the signing of the treaty by Mahommed ben Sanee [Muhammad bin Thānī] of Guttur, as well as decisions in regard to the sanctions against Mohammed ben Khalifah [Shaikh Muḥammad bin Khalīfah Āl Khalīfah], the orchestrator of the acts of aggression.

Questions regarding the sovereignty of Bahrein and Guttur. The correspondence includes details of both Persia and Turkey's claims to the sovereignty of Bahrein and includes translations of letters from Mahommed ben Khalifah [Shaikh Muḥammad bin Khalīfah Āl Khalīfah] in which he recognises Persia's sovereignty of Bahrein and its peoples and concerns over Turkish claims of sovereignty following the death of a Turkish General on the

mainland near Bahrein.

The question of the sovereignty of Guttur relates to its recognition by Lewis Pelly in 1868 in signing the maritime peace treaty and arrangements made by Pelly for the tribute paid by Guttur to Bahrein to be paid through the Political Residency, which the British Government viewed as simply an arrangement to pay tribute to protect both states frontiers against the Naim [Āl Naʿīm] and Wahabee [Wahhabi] tribes, rather than a statement of Guttur's independence.





forces amounting perhaps to 5,000 Bedouins from
before Rostock, and has written, or purpops writing,
to the Wahabee Ameer asking him whether the
Wahabee Lieutenant, Sudeyree, is acting by order
of the Ameer, or without orders. Until Ameer Fyoud's
rejoinder be received, His Highness refrains from
collision with Sudeyree. In this he is wise.

I hope the Wahabee element will be found
not to be deeply-seated in the dissension and —
strife; for if it is deeply-seated, I foresee much
trouble, anxiety, and perhaps even disaster to
His Highness. —

In two or three days a Buglah leaves, I
believe, for the Presidency. Further particulars
I purpose submitting by her for the information
of His Excellency the Governor in Council. —

I have the honor to be &c
(Signed) Herbert Disbrowe Lieut. Col.
Political Agent Muscat.

N^o. 279 of 1864.

To,
Political Department
C. Gonne, Esquire,
Acting Secretary to Government
Bombay.

Dated Muscat Dec^r. 3rd 1864.

Sir,

Hajee Ahmed, Vizier, has by order of
His



②

His Highness the Sultan, written me, requesting me to obtain the sanction of Government to His Highness being provided from the Bombay Arsenal with shells, one thousand (1000) in number, with complement of fuses, as per sample sent down in mail steamer to His Highness' Consul General in Bombay. The Vizier further intimates, His Highness' ^{readiness} to pay into my Treasury here, the amount demanded in liquidation.

2. The Consul General to arrange for the transmission to Muscat of the shells &c, if sanctioned.

3. I promised to submit to Her M^{ty} Government His Highness' application made through me, and do so in this letter accordingly.

4. I presume His Highness requires these shells for use against his enemies, as specified in a former letter (N^o 244) from me, dated to day. Whether they will be used as instruments of offence and coercion against His Highnesses' own subjects only, such as Syed-Yes bin Azar, or whether the turn of affairs will cause them to be employed against Wahabee Agents or Lieutenants, the state of matters, as at present existing, does not of course permit me to



to form a judgment.

Even when His Highness the Sultan of Muscat has been on unfriendly relations with Wahabee Authorities, His Highness always, during my service in the Persian Gulf, received the sympathies of the British Government through its representative in the Gulf. Wahabee encroachments are essentially noxious, and requires discouragement. I, of course, simply acknowledge receipt of His Highness' request, and inform His Highness that I have requested H. M^t Government to comply with it.

The Wahabee Ameer and the Sultan of Muscat being both on terms of amity with the British Government, it rests with the Honble the Governor in Council to decide, whether the ammunition solicited is or is not to be granted from our Government arsenal.

It is strongly to be hoped that the recent doings of the Wahabee Agent, Sudeyree, will be disavowed by Ameer Fysul, and that no enmity will arise between His Highness Syed Toweeynee and the Ameer. It was my duty, however, to point out to His Excellency in Council, the possibility of the Wahabee element proving more than superficial in the present Oman dissensions,

to

Herb



to enable His Excellency to pronounce a fair decision
with regard to the ammunition.

I will conclude by remarking that unless
His Highness be allowed to draw on our arsenal for
the shells, the success of military arrangements in
prospect to be entered on, if requisite, will likely
enough be weakened, for I fear that save from
Her Majesty's Government arsenal, no such shells
can be obtained by His Highness.

Looking, I respectfully ask, for a
reply by next mail steamer.

I have the honor to be Sir

(Signed) H. Disbrowe

Political Agent Muscat

Pardon the untidiness
and informality of this
letter. Mail is actually
closing.

Sg^t H. D.

N^o 623 of 1864.

Persian Department

12th December 1864.

Translation of a letter from His Highness Syud
Thooence, Sultan of Muscat, to His Excellency Sir
Henry Bartle Edward Freer, K. C. B. Governor of
Bombay, dated 3rd, and received ^{ordered} to be translated on
the 10th December 1864.

A. C.

Let it be known to your Excellency that
occurrences



occurrences calculated to disturb the peace and tranquillity
of the Country lately took place in some of my places
in Oman, and I therefore intended to adopt measures
to suppress the disturbance. When I arrived at the
place of my destination, I was molested and
opposed by Toorkee bin Ahmed Suderree, Chief of
Buremee on behalf of Fysul bin Saood, the
Wahabee Chief. I was placed in a difficult position
and my business was spoiled by this opposition.
I therefore immediately communicated to Fysul
bin Saood all that his people had done, as also the
circumstance of their having interfered with
my territory. At the same time I suggested to
him that this matter should be decided by the
British Resident in the Persian Gulf. Govern-
ment is well aware that the separation of
Muscat from Zanzibar has resulted in great
losses to all parties, so much so, that even
these people have interfered with the affairs
of my territory and disturbed the peace and
tranquillity of the Country. I am now awaiting
a reply from Fysul. If he should consent to
the mediation of the British Resident it is well
and good, but if he should object to it, I shall
be obliged to march against them and blockade
all the ports belonging to the Wahabees. I therefore
request



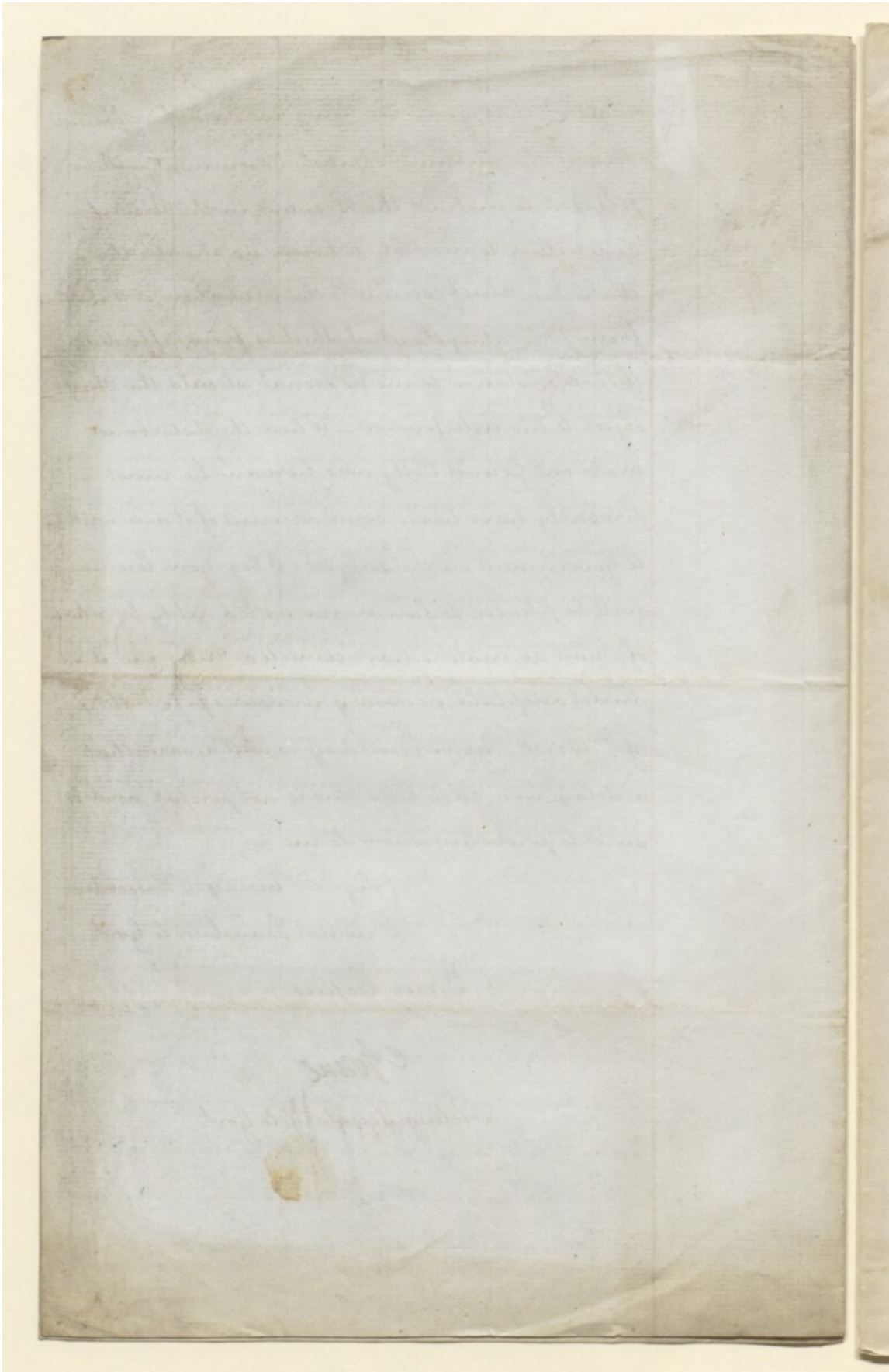
(4)
request that your Excellency who are the representa-
-tive of the sublime British Government, will be
pleased to instruct the Resident in the Persian -
Gulf either to mediate between us should the -
Wahabee Chief consent to the mediation, or to abstain
from preventing the Arab Sheikhs from affording
their assistance to me as usual, should the Chief
object to his interference. - When the disturbance
broke out Colonel Pelly was here and he must -
probably have heard some account of it and written
to Government on the subject. I beg Your Excellency
will be pleased to favour me with a reply by return
of Mail as matters have come to a crisis, and I -
must adopt the necessary measures before they
get worse. Your Excellency is well aware that
a delay in a case like this is not proper, and is
sure to prove injurious to me.

(Signed) Venayek Wassoodew
Oriental Translator to Gov^t

(True Copies)

C Gonne
Acting Secretary to Gov^t

htf





Bushire 12th January 1865 ⁽⁵⁾

My dear Sir Bartle Frere

Your Excellency will notice that the Despatches transmitted by this Mail from Her Majesty's Minister at St. Petersburg are of more than ordinary interest in relation to the proceedings of Russia in Southern Central Asia. These proceedings may be a ruse, or they may be the first move of a wave destined to break on British India. In any case a Minister so experienced, so little given to illusions and so careful neither to anticipate evil nor needlessly to alarm his Government, as Mr. Alison deems it expedient to turn his direct attention towards this question. We have further before us the broad facts:

First—That the isthmus between the Black Sea and the Caspian is really Russia and that her large army of the Caucasus is disengaged—

Secondly—That the Persian provinces on the Southern Coast of the Caspian from the Russian frontier to Asterabad seem ripe for annexation and quite at the mercy of Russia and

Thirdly—That we find Russia pressing simultaneously on many points, to the East of the Caspian all tending to the Northern frontier of Afghanistan and Cashmere—

His Excellency
Sir Bartle Frere K. C. B.

The



The recommendation by the Shah of Russia's proceedings in Central Asia to the serious attention of Government does not seem premature and I venture to think that any remarks bearing on this question submitted even from the restricted point of view of a local servant of Government will not be held by your Excellency as intrusive.

Four points strike me

First—Past experience and observation of the map must have assured Russia that her only chance of eventually winning in a struggle for Europe becoming French or Cossack lies in her strengthening herself from the near by rendering available by whatever means for her purposes of War the immense hordes of warlike and comparatively idle men which the countries beyond her Asiatic frontiers present.

Secondly and without being able to give any reliable detail of facts there is unquestionably so far as I have observed an increasing feeling of assurance that a great struggle between England and Russia is coming on in Southern Central Asia. And when such a feeling becomes familiar to the hordes of these regions it may of itself in some degree tend to facilitate the crisis.

Thirdly Whatever may be the present intentions of Russia whether in the direction of the Transoxian States or as from the South East point



point of the Caspian in the direction
of Herat, I remain of the opinion as
copies submitted to go- submitted in my letters
vernment at the time to the late Earl Canning.
and subsequently in part That the distances to be
traversed are so great and
the character of the countries so diffi-
cult and sterile that a Russian general
would hesitate to appear on the Indian
frontier until Russia should in the
first instance have consolidated inter-
mediate territory and given him a base
of operations much nearer and ^{more} accessible
than any she can yet pretend to
Fourth. The fourth point and that which
has perhaps been more particularly
impressed on my mind from the
accident of my local position
in the Persian Gulf is this that
Russia's proceedings on the line of
the Oxus are for the present affairs
of outpost or rather that Russia
feels perhaps that she can aggress
even in times of peace upon the
chieftainship of Turkestan without
risking a crisis on behalf of those
small and little known states and
that the country which it most
imports Russia next to deal with
whether by annexation or by the-
roughly subduing it to her will
is Persia. A glance at the map with
a knowledge of the Status quo shows;
1st That Russia has an actual
basis of operations from Odessa
to the South West corner of
the Caspian.
That



2^{ndly} That all is ripe for the annexation of Gulan and Mazenderan and the extension of this base to the South East corner or Asterabad.

3^{rdly} - That a vast army has long been gathered on a portion of this base; that Russia's European Frontier ceasing to be a point of aggression the army of the Caucasus might be increased and become available in close proximity with Tabreez and Iehran, respectively the Capital and principal town of Persia.

4^{thly} That if Russia wishes to astride across Southern Central Asia, the narrowest the nearest, the best supplied and the most practicable line is from Iehran to the head of the Persian Gulf whether Bushire or Mahomerah. The extremities of this line form the Northern and Southern frontier of one and the same state so that an impulse emanating from the Russian frontier would be felt at one and the same time along the line of the Caspian and the line of the Persian Gulf.

5^{thly} That so astride her Western frontier presses along the entire Eastern frontier of Asiatic Turkey, while her Eastern frontier presses along the entire Western frontier of Afghanistan and Beloochistan - equally as our Provinces of Peshawar and Sind press on the Eastern frontier of those states.

6^{thly} That Russia thus astride of Persia as the saddle of Southern Central Asia would further press on as



on Turkestan and the bus on her
north thus connecting her Siberian
frontier by means of her outposts at
Khiva, Bokhara, Kokan or elsewhere in Tur-
kistan with her Persian frontier and

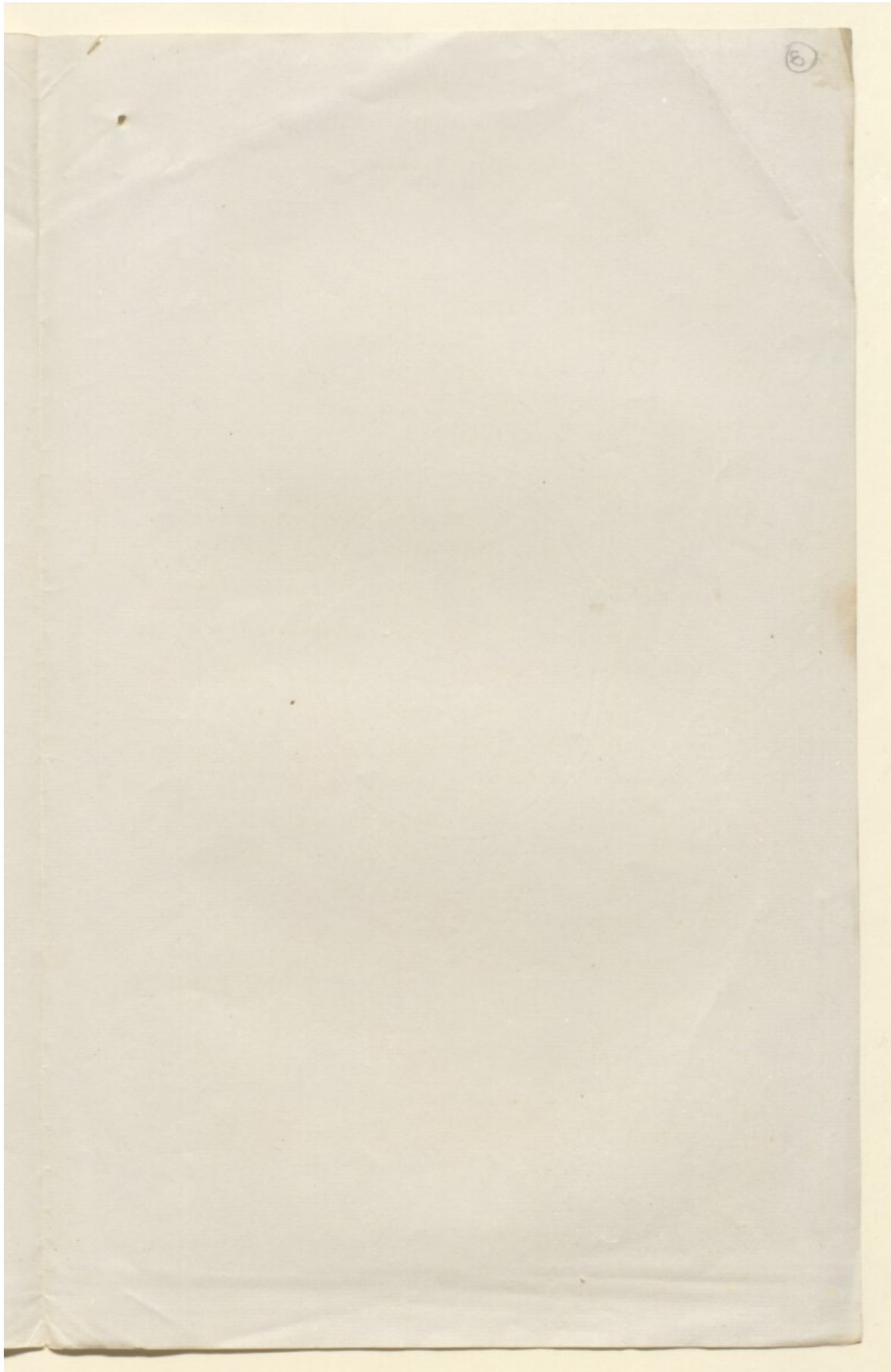
7th That Russia so astride would ac-
tually dominate the Persian gulf
on her Southern frontier thus com-
manding any line of communication
whether of River, Telegraph or
Railway from the head of that
gulf along the Euphrates valley.
My duty has recently led me to in-
spect in detail the naval positions
at the mouth of the Persian gulf
and I do not hesitate to assert
that if Russia were once to occu-
py the inlets at the promontory
of Musseedom and its adjacent
Islands she would secure a naval
position possessing almost un-
rivalled natural advantages from
which it would be exceedingly
difficult to expel her and which
to say the least of it could not
be less than an emphatic and
standing menace to Western
India - It is unnecessary to
add that so placed Russia
would also influence Arabia.

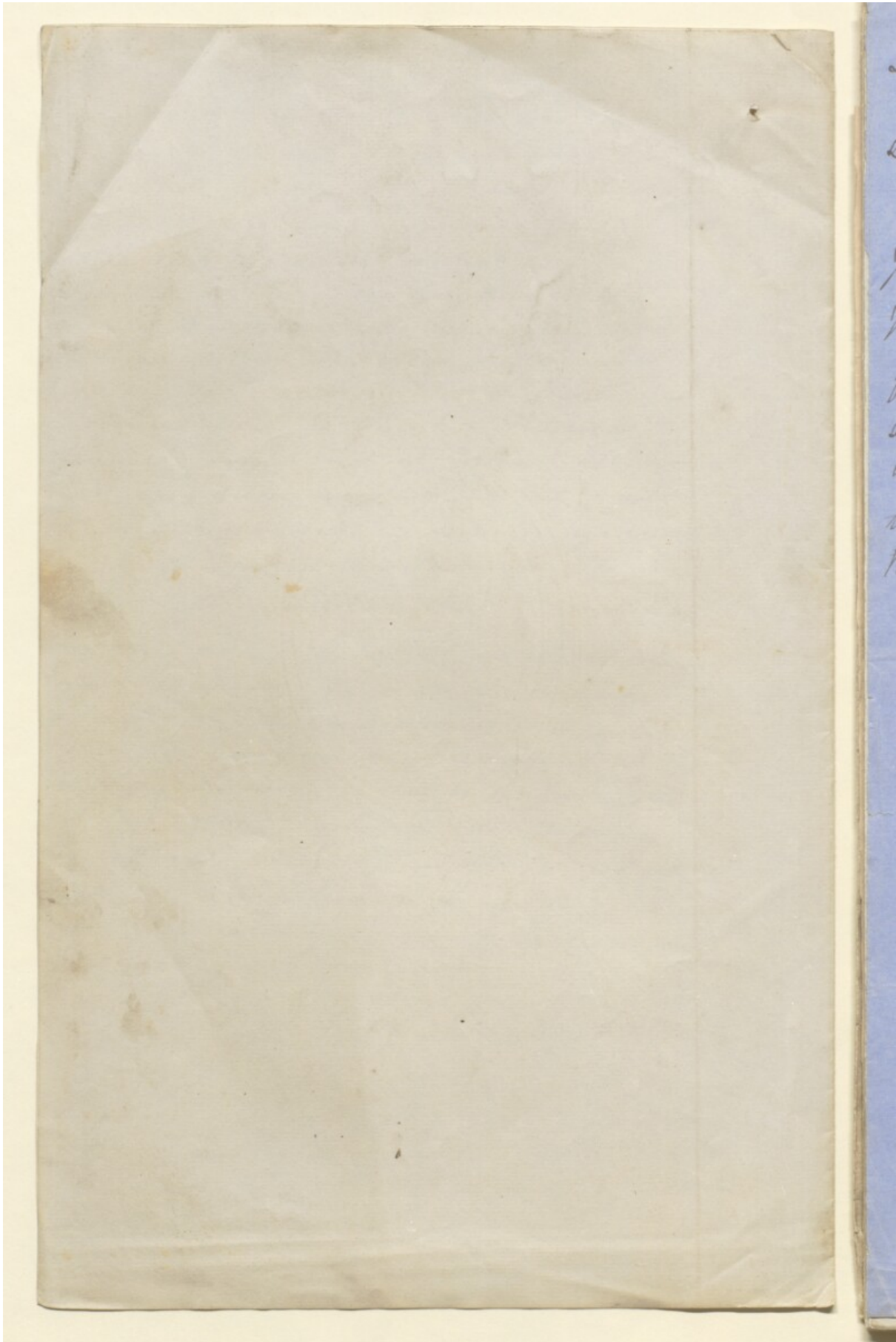
It were easy to expatiate upon what
I have now summarized I rather fear
lest I may be considered to overslip my
sphere of duty in submitting what I now
submit, nor indeed would I venture to do
so, were it not that the matter in ques-
tion seems very grave, that the Government
have



have for many years employed me in positions where this matter has become subject of special study and that I find that what I submitted to Earl Canning, some years ago has not been belied by subsequent events in central Asia. At the same time I am careful to repeat after what I have seen of the lines of communication to be traversed between the Caspian Sea and our North Western frontier that I think a Russian general would not at present attempt that expedition and if he did would be met by us with overwhelming advantages on the line of the Indus. On the other hand I do apprehend that so soon as Russia may feel herself in a condition to aggress openly she will use Persia as a fulcrum for ultimate Asiatic domination. That the Government of Persia and the general condition of the country are ill-suited to oppose such an attempt and if the attempt were successfully carried into effect it would be a fact meriting the gravest consideration in Your Excellency's Presidency—

I have the honor &c^{ca}
Signed/ Lewis Pelly







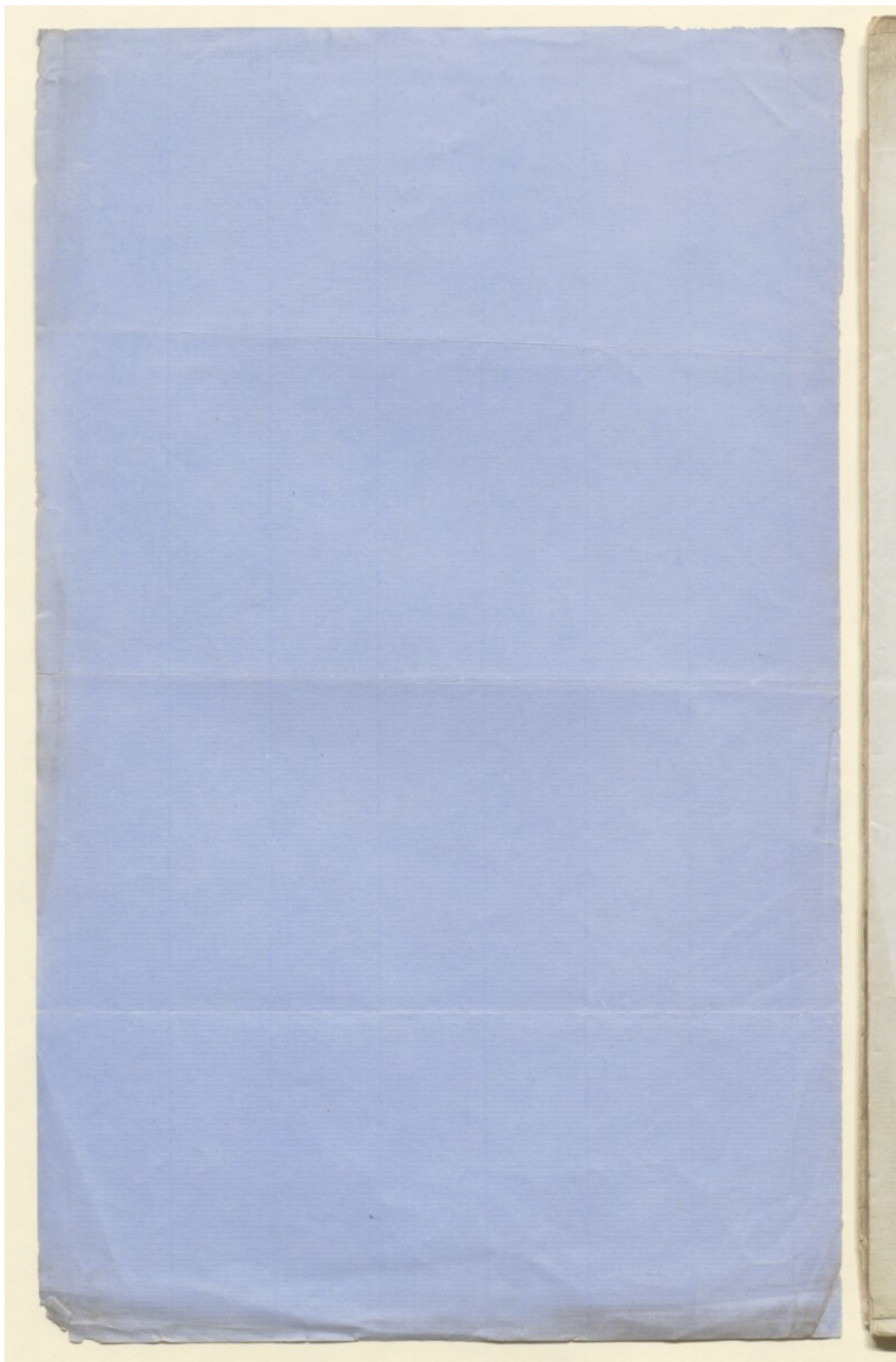
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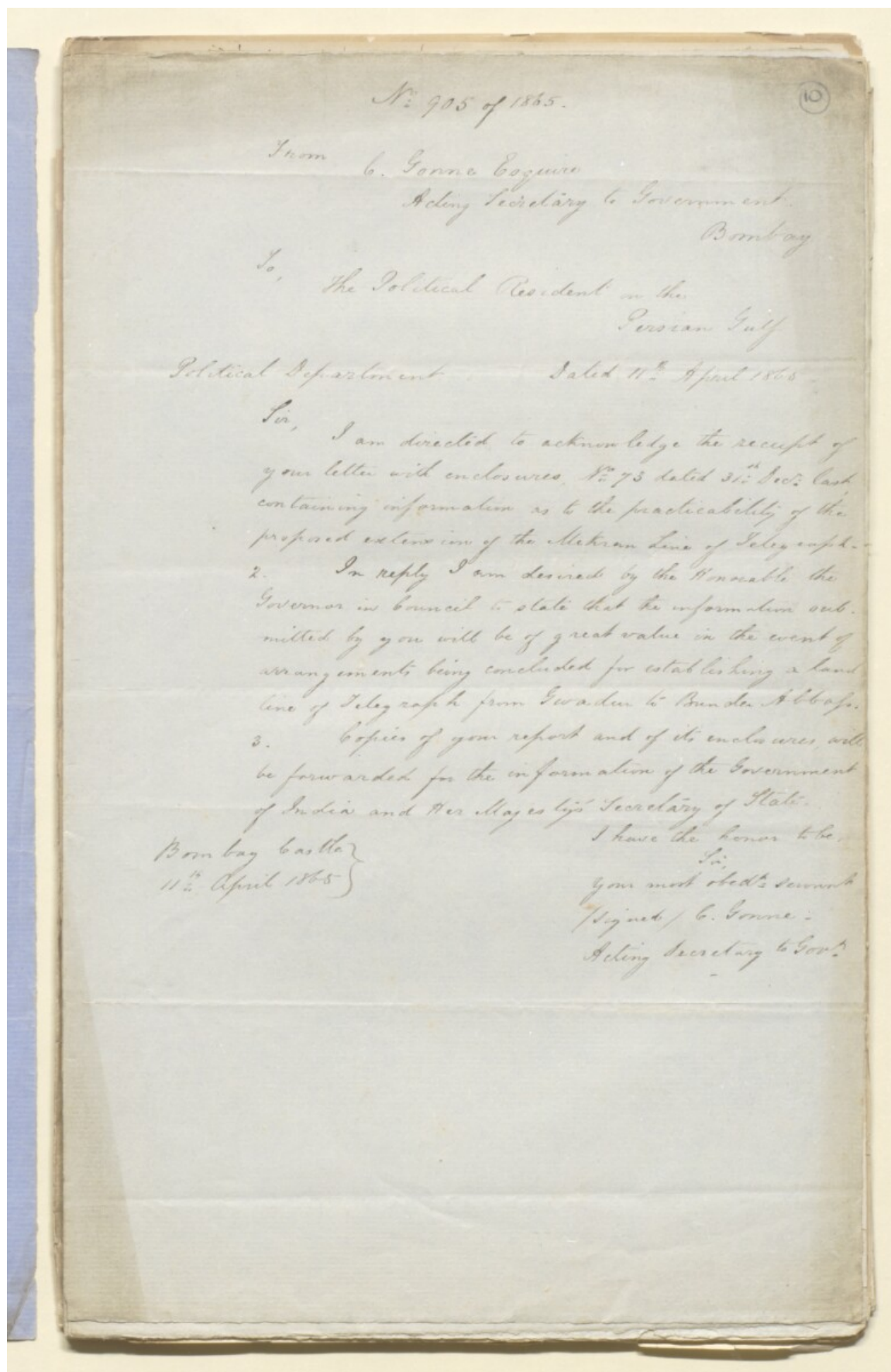
Telegram Dated 26th March 1885 -

Secretary to Government in the Pol. Dep.
Bombay.

The affairs of Muskat in relation to the
Wahabees seem to me to require care-
ful and prompt consideration. If Govt.
still wish me to aid in this matter, I
would suggest that I be authorized
to proceed in "Beremice" to Muskat and
thence to Bombay -

Pol. Resident





No 905 of 1865.

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From C. Gonne Esquire
Acting Secretary to Government.
Bombay

To, The Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf

Political Department. Dated 11th April 1865.

Sir,
I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter with enclosures No 73 dated 31st Decr last
containing information as to the practicability of the
proposed extension of the Mekran Line of Telegraph.

2. In reply I am directed by the Honorable the
Governor in Council to state that the information sub-
mitted by you will be of great value in the event of
arrangements being concluded for establishing a land
line of Telegraph from Swatun to Brundah Abbas.

3. Copies of your report and of its enclosures will
be forwarded for the information of the Government
of India and Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

Bombay Castle
11th April 1865

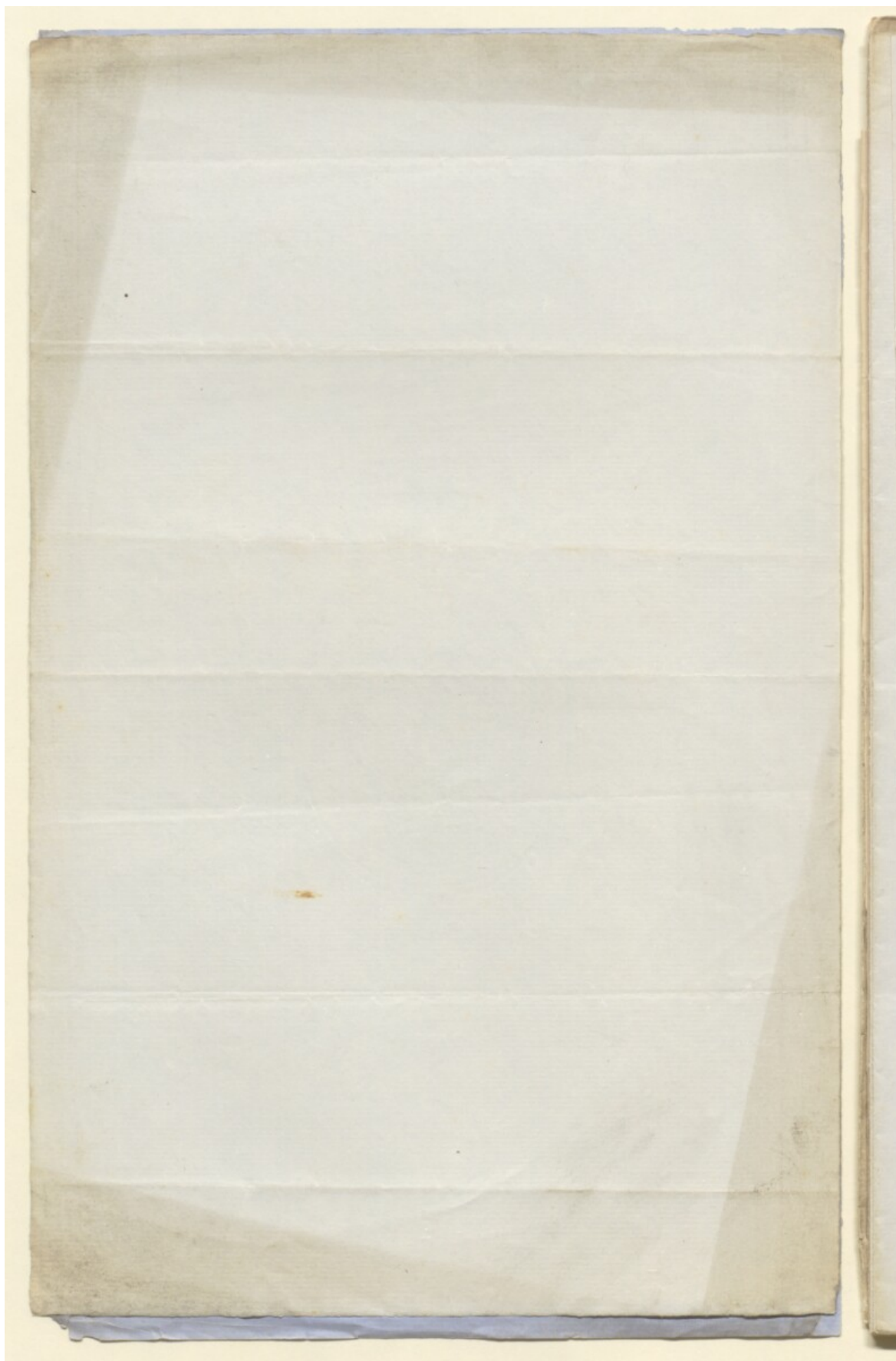
I have the honor to be,

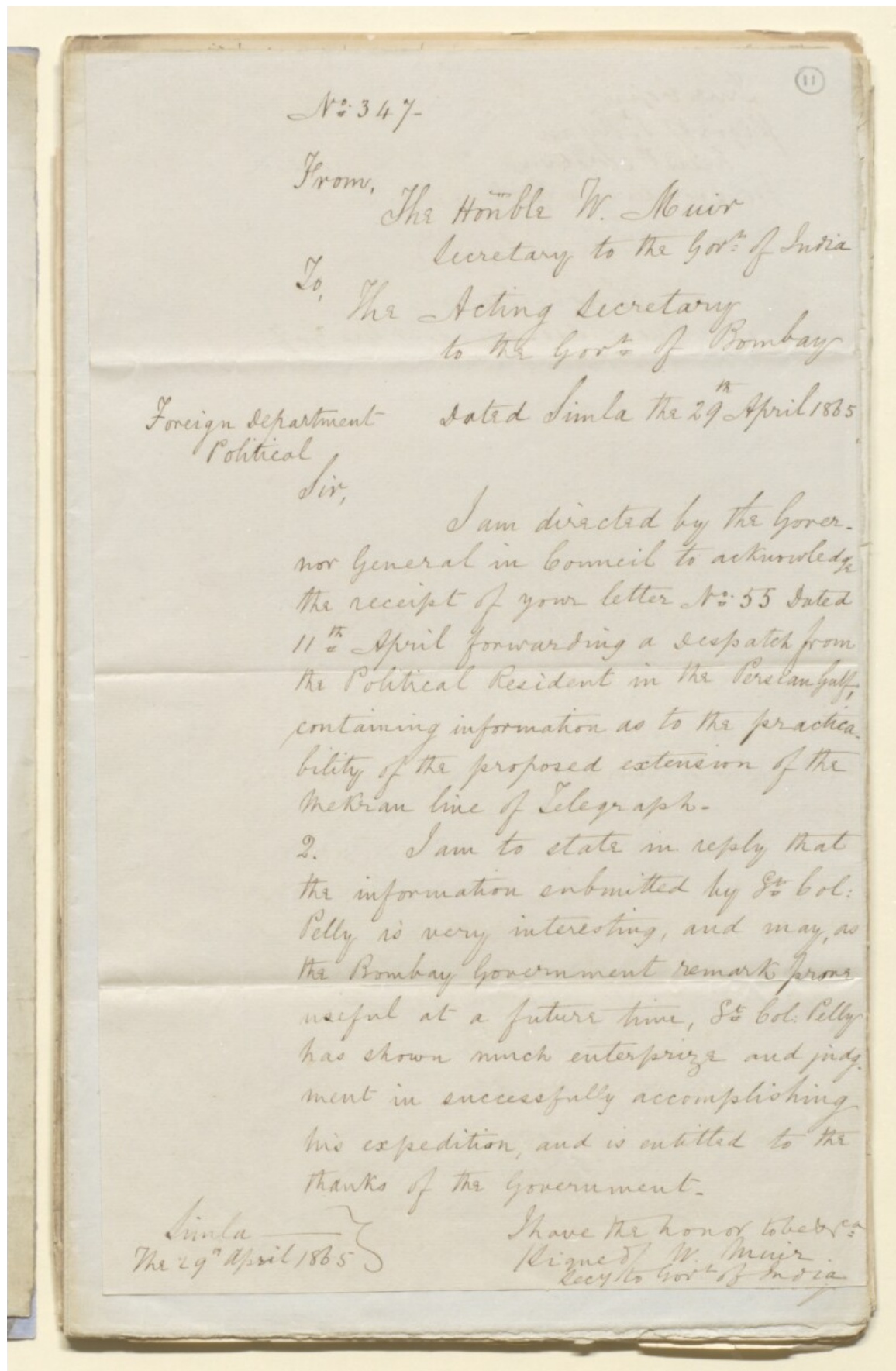
Sir,

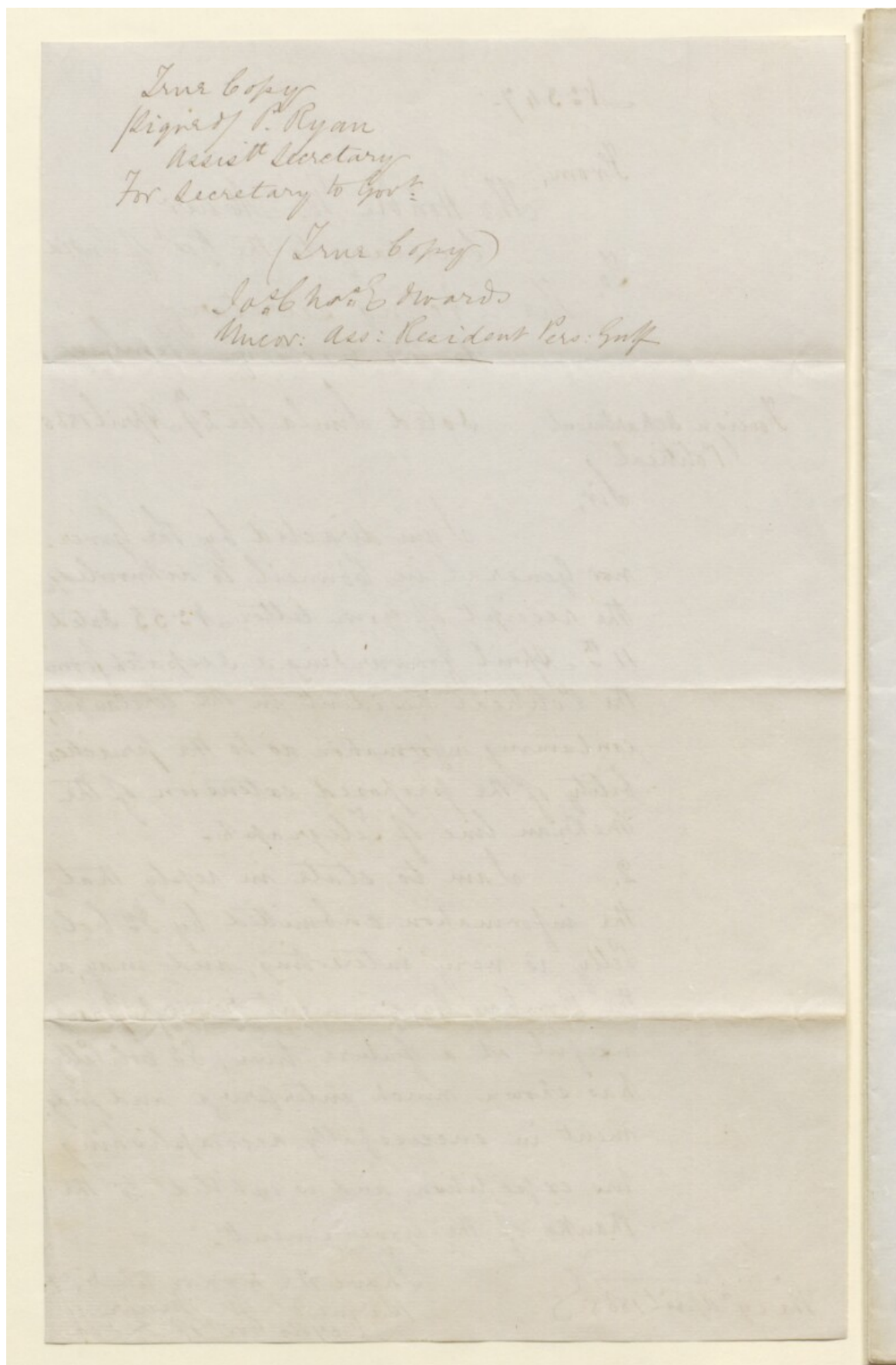
Your most obed^t servant

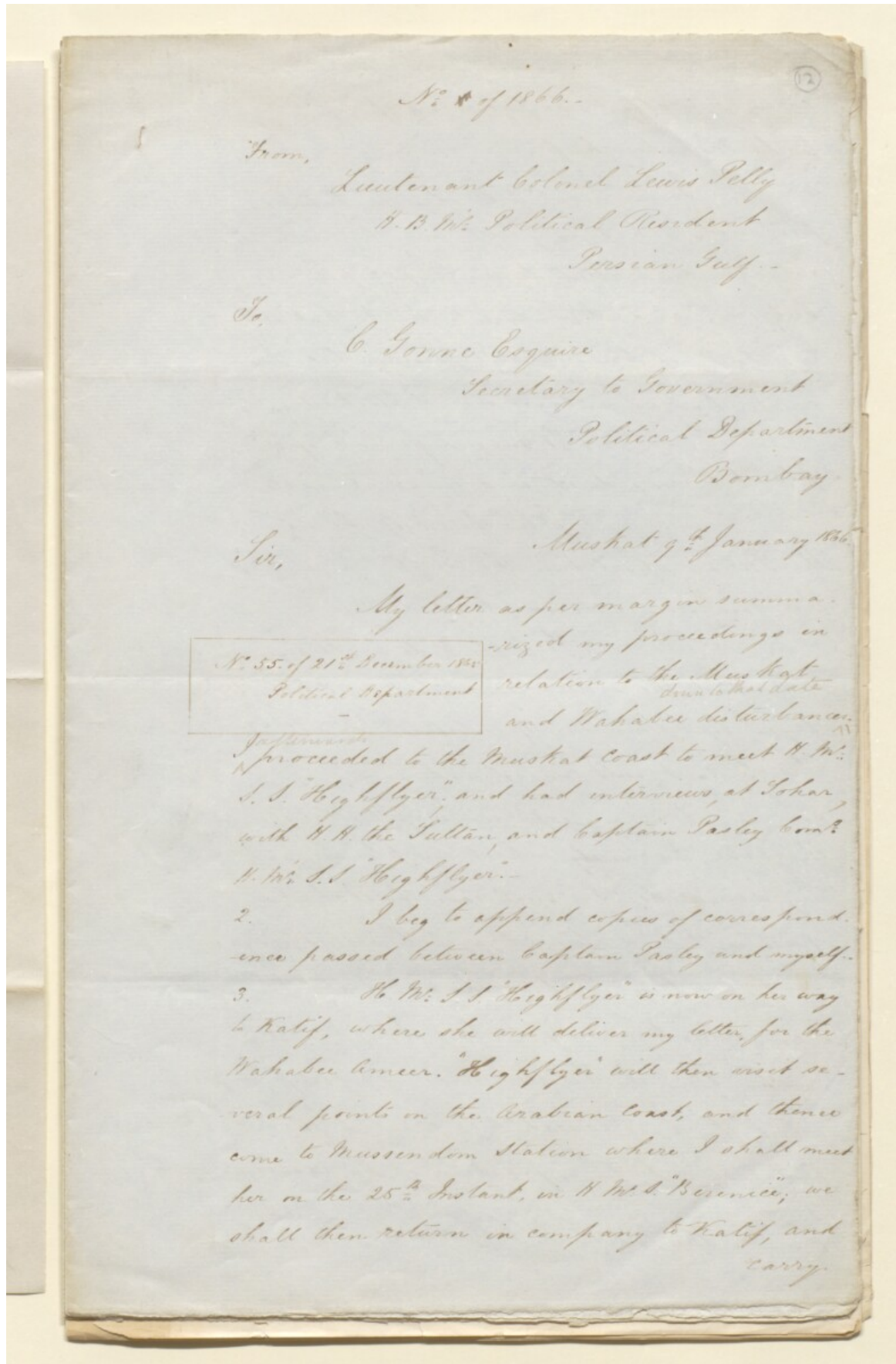
Wm. C. Gonne.

Acting Secretary to Govt.











carry into effect the provisions of my letter to the Wahabee chief--

4. Government will observe that I have preferred to base my letter to the Amier on the outrages committed by his troops upon our subjects; and I venture to think that His Excellency in Council will consider that this course has advantages over a blockade--

1st Our own ground of complaint is more direct and unquestionable--

2nd We thus keep the name of the Sultan apart from the conflict, and apart, therefore, from subsequent retaliation--

3rd A blockade would require time, and the orders issued to H.M.S. "High-flyer" by Commodore Montreson do not take this element into consideration--

5. From my experience of the Wahabee character, I scarcely expect compliance with my demands. In such case the Wahabee forts will be destroyed and their shipping confiscated on or about the 28th instant-- I am simultaneously dealing their pride another blow, by the destruction of a fortification which they have caused to be erected on the pirate coast, in infraction of the Maritime Truce--

6. The interval between this and the

28th



25th I fill up by proceeding towards the inland frontier of Muskat in view to ascertaining what the character and resources of the country, and what the temper of the frontier tribes may really be. Lieut. Powell commanding H.M.S. *Georgiana* will accompany me.

7. Meantime the Sultan himself is collecting his tribes within sixty miles of the Wahabee Stronghold of Berkeynee. But His Highness is so indolent and vacillating, and his most obedient dependants have such a wholesome terror of the Wahabee tribes, that I am very doubtful whether he will move to the attack until my return from the Wahabee sea ports: all I am able to do in this matter is as follows:-

1st To restrain the Arab Littoral tribes who are hostile to the Sultan by reminding them that their forts are within range of our guns.

2nd To permit the Littoral tribes friendly to the Sultan to aid him by land, though the Arab character is so utterly perfidious and so open to bribery that no one can ^{certainly} predicate which side an Arab tribe will advocate until the first blood is shed.

3rd I leave instructions with the Sultan's Minister to hold His Highness where he is, unless circumstances so combine,



as that failure at Berzineh cannot be possible.

8. Fortune, meantime, favors us, since a report—to which I am myself inclined to give credence and to which also I give publicity—is gaining ground, to the effect that, the Wahabee Ameer is dead; and that there is approaching disunion between his sons; another advantage is that the Wahabee Leader seems to have taken alarm at the sound of English interference, and has retreated. I should not be surprised, if, when the Wahabee Govt receive my letter, they should turn round upon their own heels, and that he, with all his belongings, should fly the country.

9. In any case, I think I am now in a position to expect that the present crisis will be successfully met; and it will then become my duty respectfully to suggest to Government the placing of our relations with the Muskat State upon a fresh and a satisfactory basis; these alliances defensive and offensive with small States at a distance are inconvenient. We
may



(14)

We may wish them well - we may be reciprocally useful to them in the development of commerce and lines of communication - and we may give them a helping hand when convenient and even protect our British Indian Subjects residing immediately on the sea boards. But surely the English Government cannot be expected to go on ^{for ever propping up} ~~for ever~~ small Asiatic Princes who cannot help themselves, or to protect British Indian Subjects, who having the free option of residing under our flag, prefer such more rapid gains at personal risk, among ^{the Insular Provinces of} fanatical and warlike Mohammedan Tribes.

10. On the other hand, I have no hesitation in submitting that the time is quite ripe, for giving the Wahabees a check. I sketched their rise and proceedings in my last letter; and with all deference for the Indian press, I would submit that the Wahabees have been newspapered into a most exaggerated notion of their own importance. I hope the blow that they ^{may} ~~will~~ receive ^{get} on the 28th will bring them to their senses.

11. There is one practical suggestion which I would venture to make. At the present time, none of ^{the} Great Governments of central



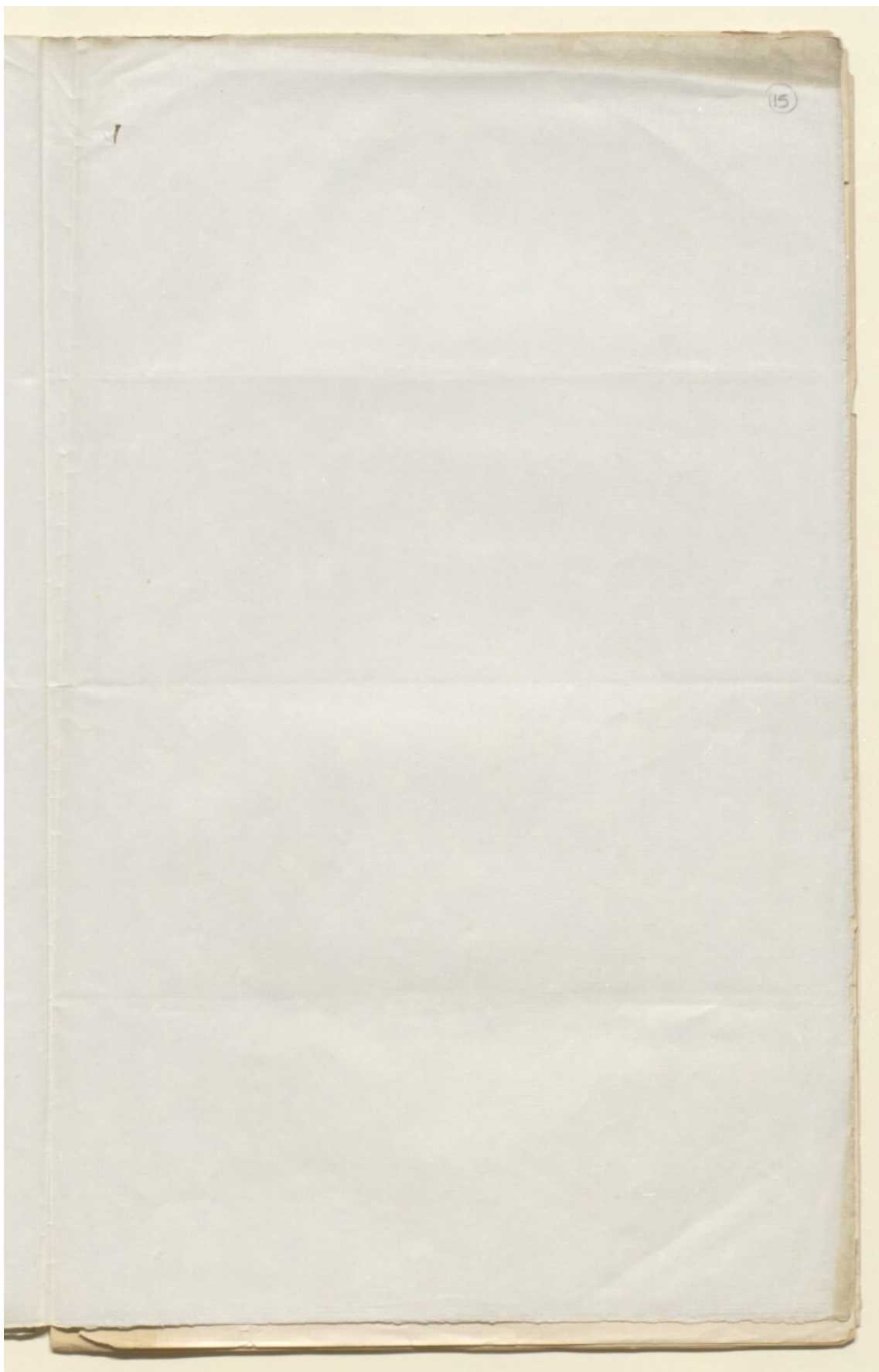
central or eastern Arabia possess any regular
force. The Sultan of Muskat alone has a few
Persian Artillery men, who serve the guns
moderately well, when there is no enemy
within range. Apart from this, an Arab
fight is a general shouting match; the
spearmen brandish their spears, the match-
locks are all fired in the air without regard
to direction, and the cavalry bend over their
horses and describe circles at full gallop...
If the Sultan had five hundred regular
infantry, two hundred irregular cavalry,
and three light field pieces, on all of which
he could rely, he would be master of the
position. Unfortunately the elements of
discipline and fidelity are not to be found
any where out of British India. The
Sultan wishes to know whether he would be
allowed to collect such a force of volunteers
from our territories, and what the probable
cost per annum for maintaining it would be.

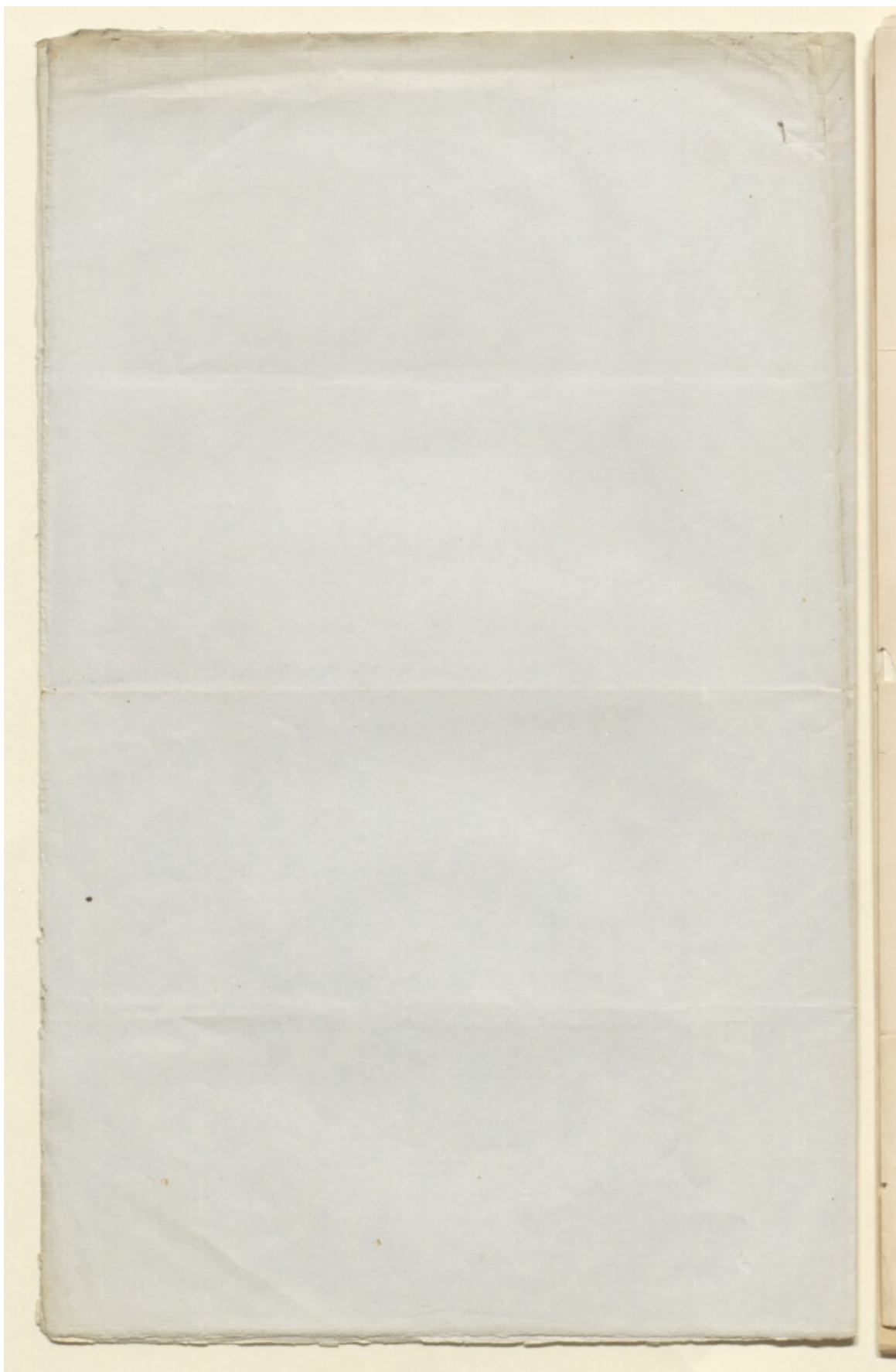
I have the honor, Sir,

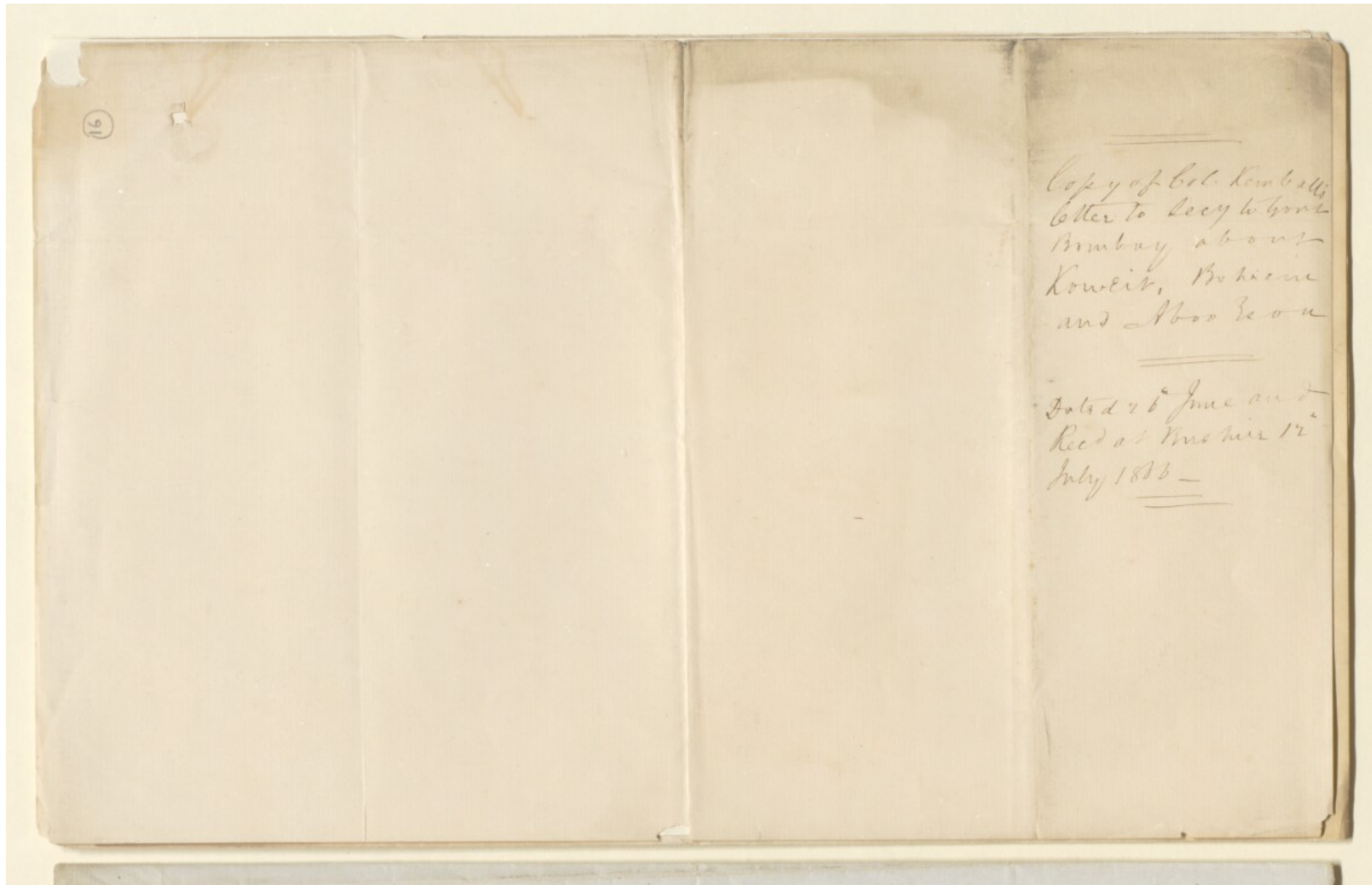
Sir,

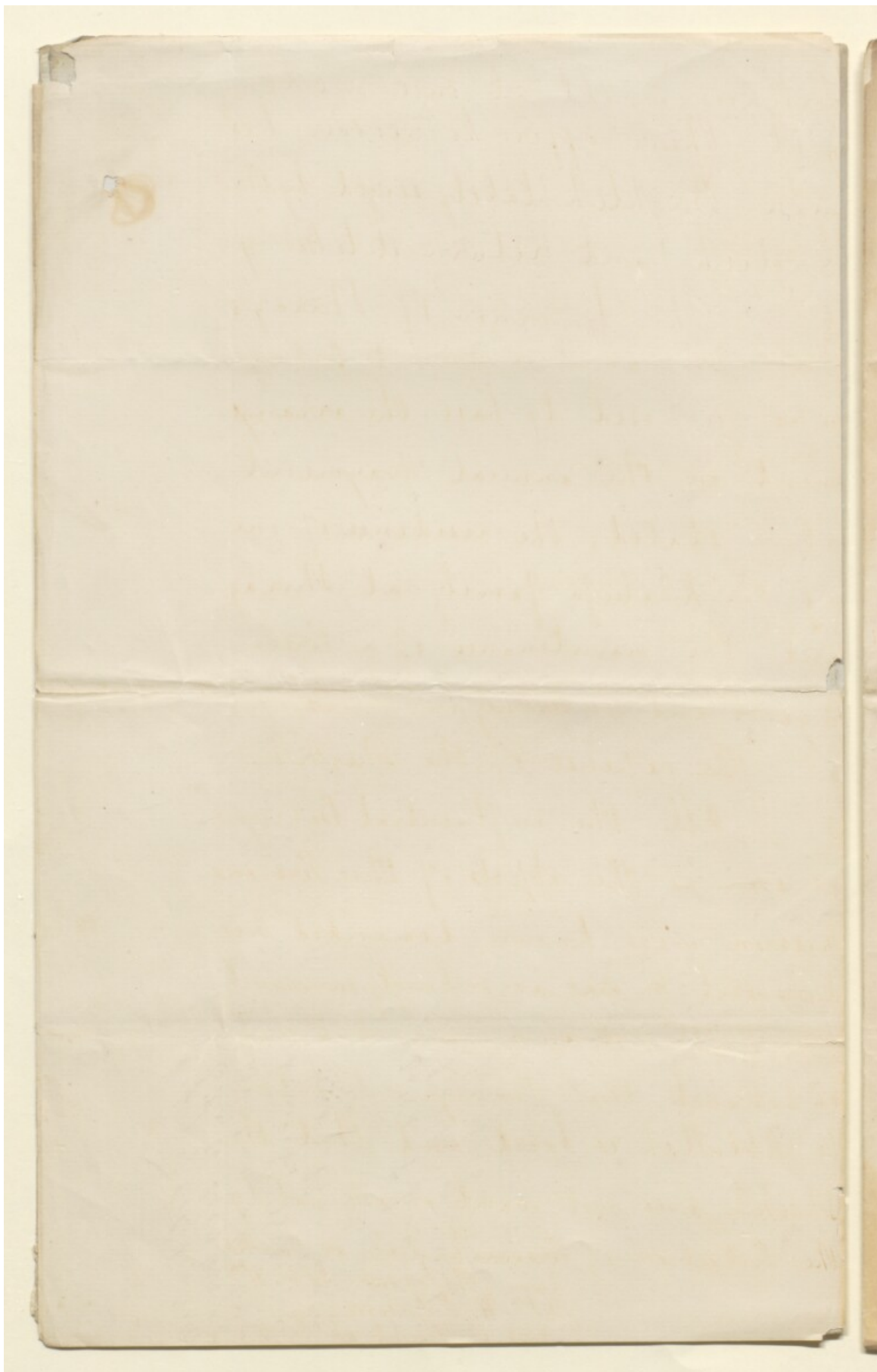
Your most obedient servant

Lewis Pelly: *obd.*
Political Resident Persian Gulf











copy. A N^o 56 of 1886 17
From
Colonel A. B. Kemball C. B.
Pol. Agent in Turkish Arabia
I,
The Secy to the Govt of Bombay
in the Pol. Department
Pol. Depart. Bombay
D/Baghdad 26th June 1886
Sir,
Adverting to the peculiar
position politically considered of the
Sherks and people of Koweit as
set forth in former Despatches
and to the suspicions and apprehensions
which recent events in
the Persian Gulf have excited
in the mind of Hamik Pasha,
I venture to submit to His
Excellency the Honorable the
Governor in Council the expediency
of inviting the British Indian
W^m Havig^r Co. to suspend for a while
the visits of its vessels to that Port.



2 I am aware that as a matter of right neither could the Turkish Authorities object to the extension of commercial intercourse by British Vessels to any part within the limits of Ottoman territory, nor could the Arab community of Koweit decline such intercourse. Yet both parties, and more especially the latter, though sincerely desirous of maintaining the most friendly relations with the English, are by the force of circumstances rendered averse from this arrangement, and it is accordingly in the interests of the company that I would recommend it to forego temporarily its undoubted privilege.

3 Unlike Bahrein, Koweit has ever avowed the suzerainty of the Porte and has ever been recognized to be a Turkish dependency but in the very weakness of the Suzerain



18
originated a Policy on its part,
which while affording the sweet
guarantee of virtual independence
relieved the p^redatory from contract-
ing engagements to other Foreign
Powers. This Policy has hitherto been
justified by the character and
conduct of the dominant family.
Their Port being free, their commercial
relations have involved no responsi-
bilities and strong enough to cause
their rights to be respected by
neighbouring cognate Principalities,
they have uniformly avoided any
^{cause} of umbrage or offence to the
Government which now for nearly
half a century has exercised para-
mount Authority in the Persian Gulf.
I am unable to call to mind
a single instance of maritime
irregularity committed by the inhabi-
tants of Koweit during that period,
and even in the matter of slave
trade wherein their obligations



were equivocal the remonstrances of English functionaries have always been received by them with deference and ostensibly at least have not remained without effect. *Vide despatch No 35 d/s June 1863 and previous correspondence.*

But recent events by attracting the attention of the Turkish authorities to Arabia have seriously compromised the prescriptive freedom of Koweit, and if the measures now under contemplation should be prosecuted to extremity as the advent of Turkish corvettes to the Gulf would portend - may not improbably issue in the dissolution of that flourishing community. Under such circumstances it is not perhaps surprising that the Sheikh of Koweit, by the mouth of his son, when on a visit to Bassorah, should have entreated Mr Johnston, the British Agent there, to dissuade the commanders of Mail Steamers from touching at his Port so long as Kamik Pasha



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should govern Turkish Arabia, nor would it perhaps be surprising, were his entreaties disregarded, his political status being threatened, that his barbarian instincts should prompt him to a course of opposition which must either force on in the apprehended event or bring him into collision with His Govt in India.

The communication of sea between Koweit and Basserah being constant and frequent and by land not exceeding 3 days caravan journey I incline to believe that no great sacrifice is involved in the temporary concession of its right by the B. I. S. N. Company.

I have no reason to believe that the objections of the Sheikh of Koweit are dictated by mistrust on his part of the designs of the English. I attach indeed no credit whatever to the proposals submitted to the Resident in the



Persian Gulf by one, Aboo Esau Khalef ben
as reported in Colonel Pelby's Esau
despatch to your address No 60
dated 15th May last. This man is
not even a Native of Koweit
with whose chiefs he enjoys
more intimate relations than derived
from his office of conductor of
Pilgrims and judging of the char-
acter of the individual from
his class as it is found in Turkish
Arabia. Active energetic but thorough-
ly unprincipled, judging also
from the circumstances of his
visit to Bushire I am of opinion
that his mission, unaccredited
as it was in respect to Koweit,
was self arrogated and his object
merely to acquire the merit of
discovering designs of which he
argued the existence from the
assumed importance of his con-
nection with Mr Palgrave.

Mr Johnston informs me



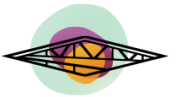
20
that since Abdul Azeer's mission
to Baghdad Abdullak es-Saood
has shewn himself very watchful
of the course of affairs at Koweit,
where an Agent on his part
resides.

In enclosing copy of a Despatch
from Mr Johnston reporting intelli-
gence from Bahrein.

I have the honor to be &c
B^h Residency, Baghdad
2^d June 1866 } Pol. Agent in Turkish
Arabia
copy No 65 of 1866

British Agency
Bushire 12th June 1866
Sir,

In some short time back Sheikh
Mahomed el-Khatifa of Bahrein
accepted the Persian offer of pro-
tection and engaged to pay 30,000 Rs.
per annum on condition that the
Colonel A. B. Kemball to B.
Pol. Agent in Turkish Arabia-Baghdad

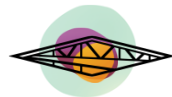


Persians would at once make
good their offer to recover his
war Bughleh (late seized by the
English) and return it to Bahrein.

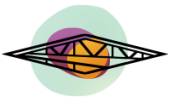
2 The Governor of Shiraz
thereupon sent a man to Bahrein
who proposed to base the arrange-
ment on the annual payment
above stated, the residence of one
of the Khalifa family at Shiraz
and the maintenance of a Persian
agent and 100 servants in the island
at the expense of the Sheikh.

3 All the influential Bahreynes,
as soon as the objects of this Persian
mission were known, demanded his
dismissal. He was accordingly summarily
dismissed with a message to His
Majesty Sultanek that Bahrein is tributary
to Abdullah-Us-Saud and that the
Sheikh does not want or acknowledge
the protection of Persians, English or Turks.

I have the honor to be &c
W. L. Johnston
British Agent at Busrah.



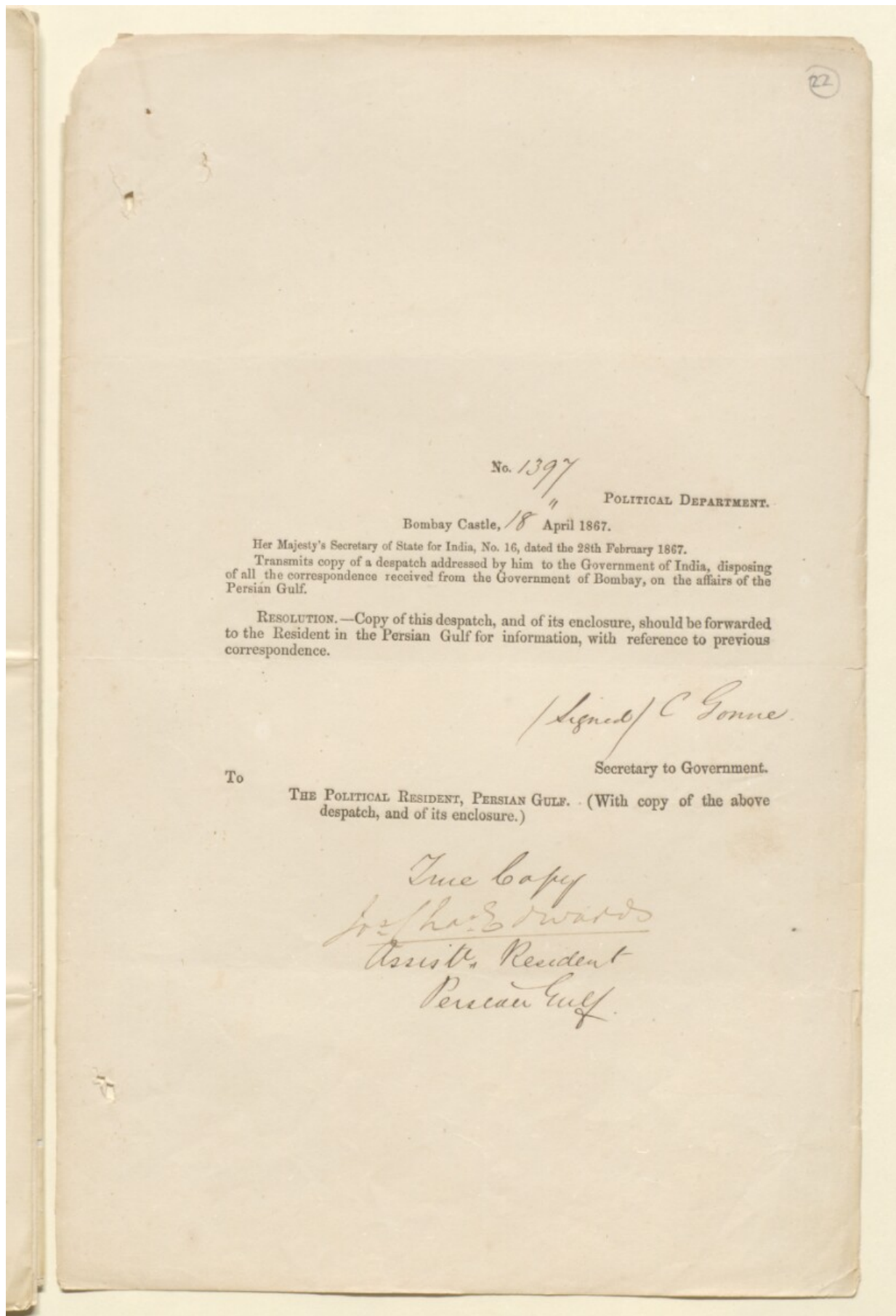
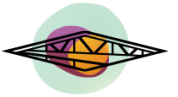
No 88 of 1866 (21)
From
Lieutenant Colonel Lewis Pelly
H. B. M's Pol. Resident Pers. Gulf
To
C. Gonne Esquire
Secretary to Government
Political Department
Bombay
British Residency,
Bushire ^{September} 23rd October 1866
Sir,
The Native Agent at Singah
writes that Sayed Torkee is commonly
reported to have proceeded to the
Muskat coast intending there to
land in a manner hostile to the
interests of Sayed Saulem.
It is not very probable
that any attempt of this nature
would be successful as Sayed
Torkee has no money, and I pre-
sume that Government having
now recognized Sayed Saulem,
would



would be averse to giving any sup-
port to a conspirator against him;
and I would suggest accordingly
that if it should be proved that
Layed Torke has invaded Muskat
the salary of 500 Rupees per mensem
now benevolently accorded him by
Government should be withdrawn.

I have the honor to be &c

(Signed) Lewis Pelly - L. Col. }
H.B. his Pol. Resident Pers. Gulf }



No. 1397

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 18 April 1867.

Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 16, dated the 28th February 1867.

Transmits copy of a despatch addressed by him to the Government of India, disposing of all the correspondence received from the Government of Bombay, on the affairs of the Persian Gulf.

RESOLUTION.—Copy of this despatch, and of its enclosure, should be forwarded to the Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, with reference to previous correspondence.

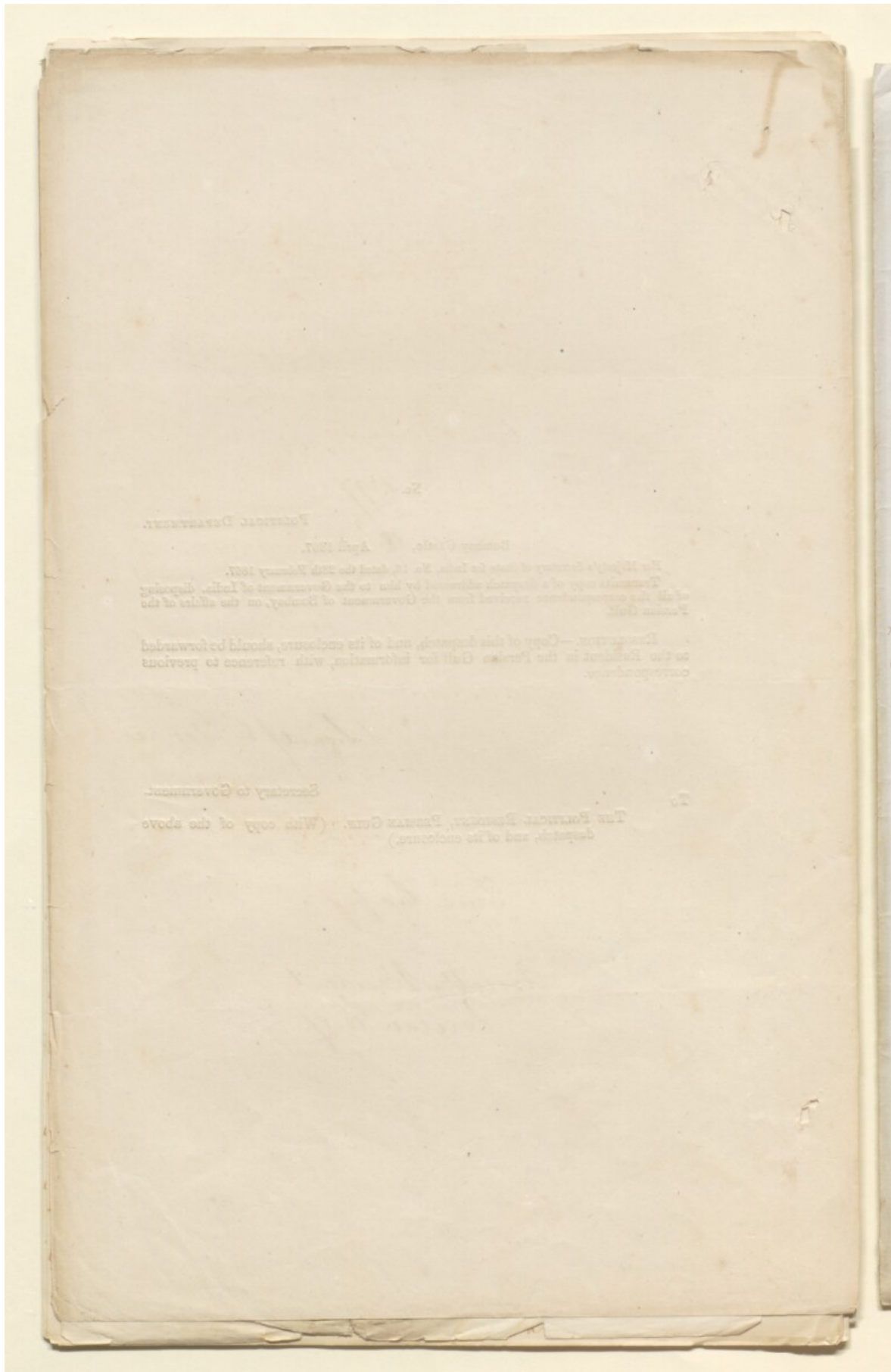
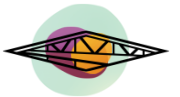
Signed/ C Gonne

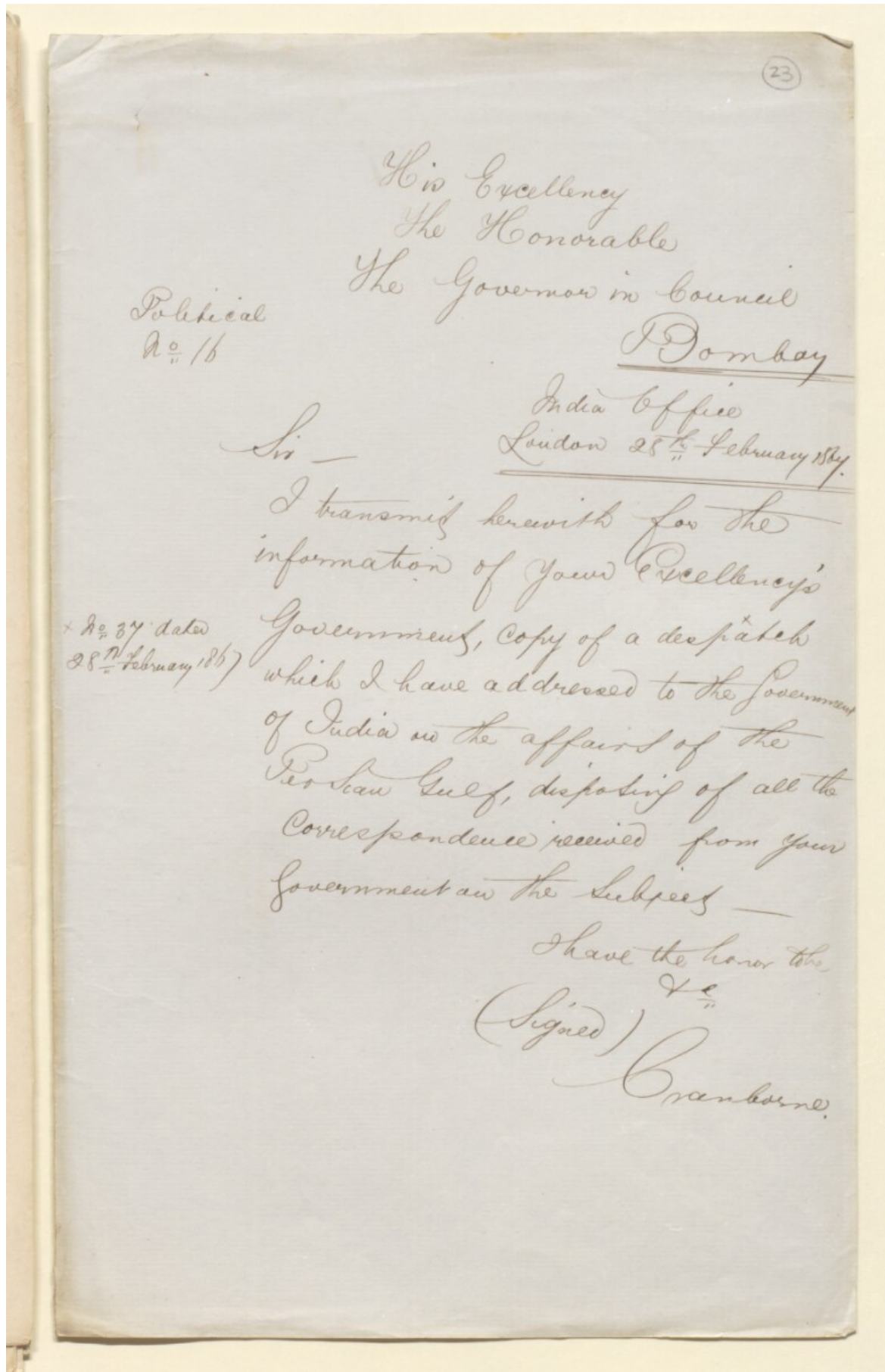
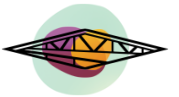
Secretary to Government.

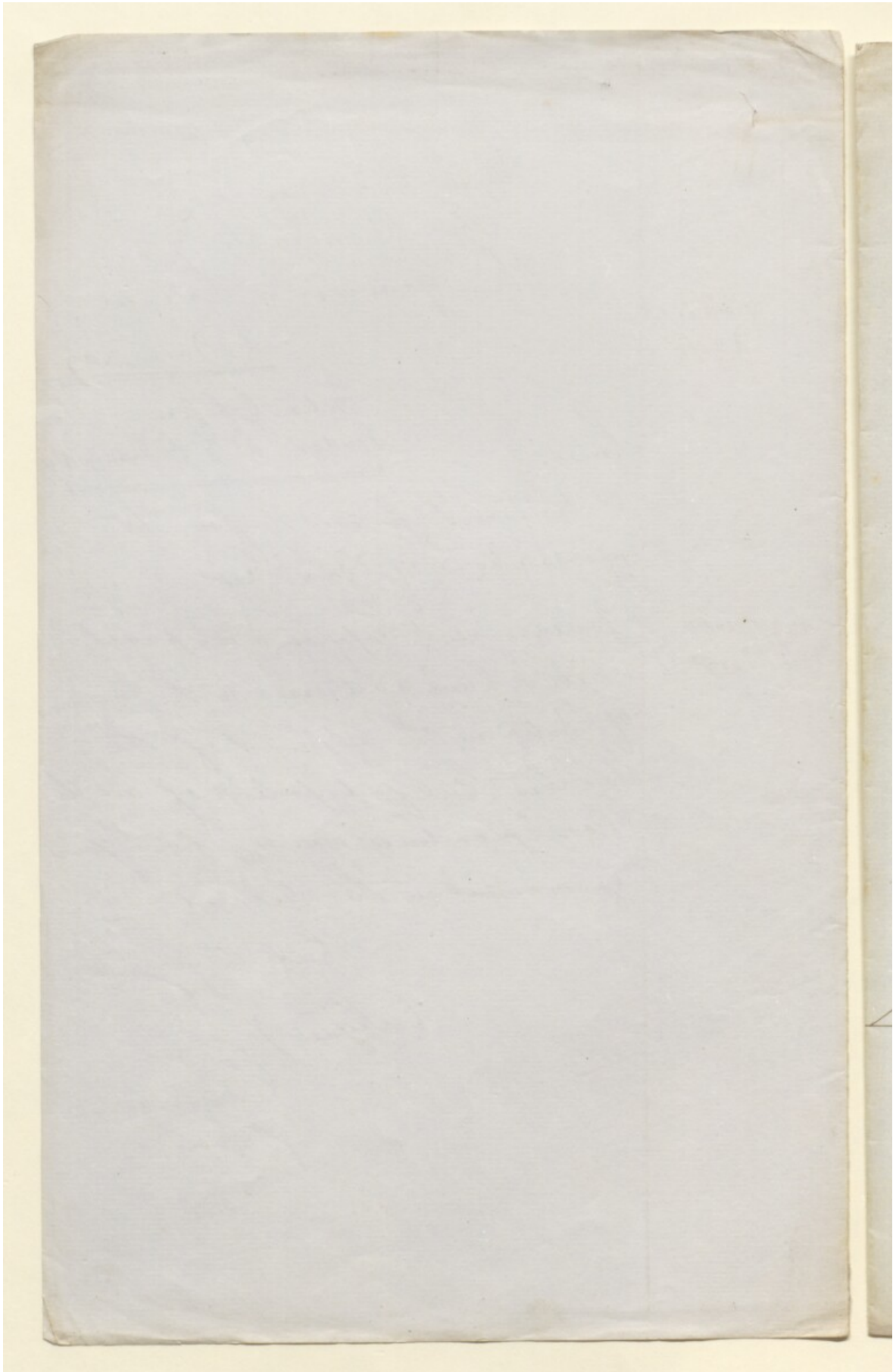
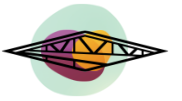
To

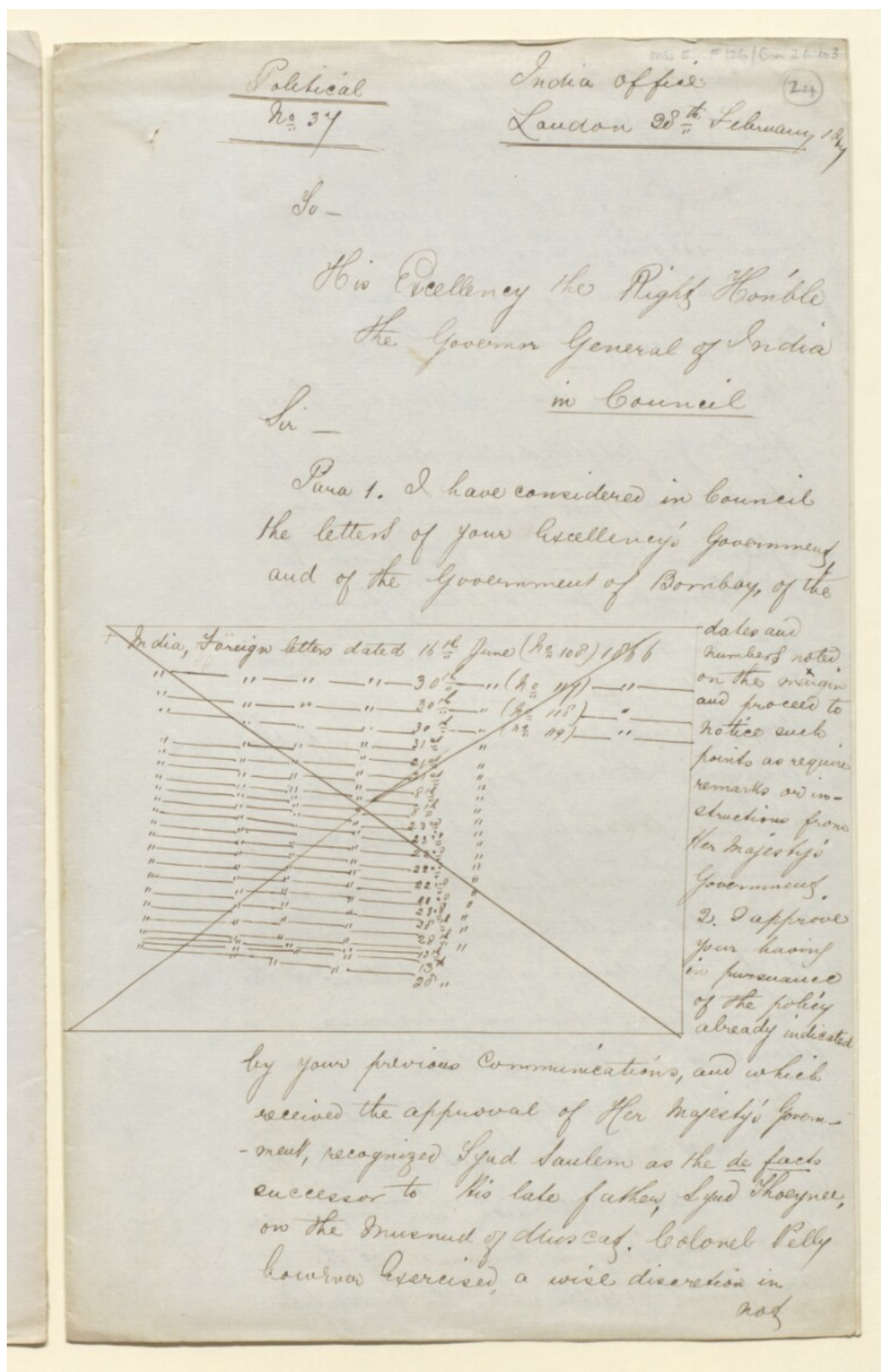
THE POLITICAL RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF. (With copy of the above despatch, and of its enclosure.)

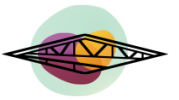
*True Copy
J. H. Edwards
Assistant Resident
Persian Gulf.*











not coupling his visit of recognition with a "visit of condolence," as desired by Syud Saulem.

3. A natural consequence of the formal recognition was, that you were bound to discourage, or at least not to condence, any attempts to expel Syud Saulem from Muscat. You properly fulfilled this obligation by prohibiting your pensioner, Syud Borker, from an invasion of Muscat, and in withdrawing your support from him, on his attempting it. When, in addition to withholding his subsistence allowance, you threatened to regard him as a public enemy, in the result of his disturbing the maritime peace by further hostile attempts against his nephews throne, you acted in accordance with the well-known principle of putting down all disturbers of the maritime peace, which we have always followed in the Persian Gulf.

4. Her Majesty's Government learn with much satisfaction, not only that the Wahabees have withdrawn their troops from Muscat Territory, in pursuance of the arrangements effected under the mediation of



of Colonel Pelly, but that the two²⁵
lately contending parties are on a footing
of amity. This result appears to be, in a great
measure, due to the exertions of the Political
Resident, and to the tact and conciliatory
demeanour which enable him to impress
on the Wahabees the conviction, that the
British Government had no wish for
Oman but to see its people governed
by chiefs of their own choice, and that
their only object is interfering, in any way,
to prevent a possible return to the
lawless and ~~practical~~^{pragmatic} practices of former
times.

5. It is unnecessary for me, at the
present time, to express any opinion upon
certain measures taken by Colonel Pelly,
which have been the subject of much
discussion between your Government and
the Government of Bombay, but I cannot
let this opportunity pass without em-
phatically expressing my concurrence
in the high estimate which both
your Excellency and the Governor of Bombay
have formed of the merits of that
distinguished officer.

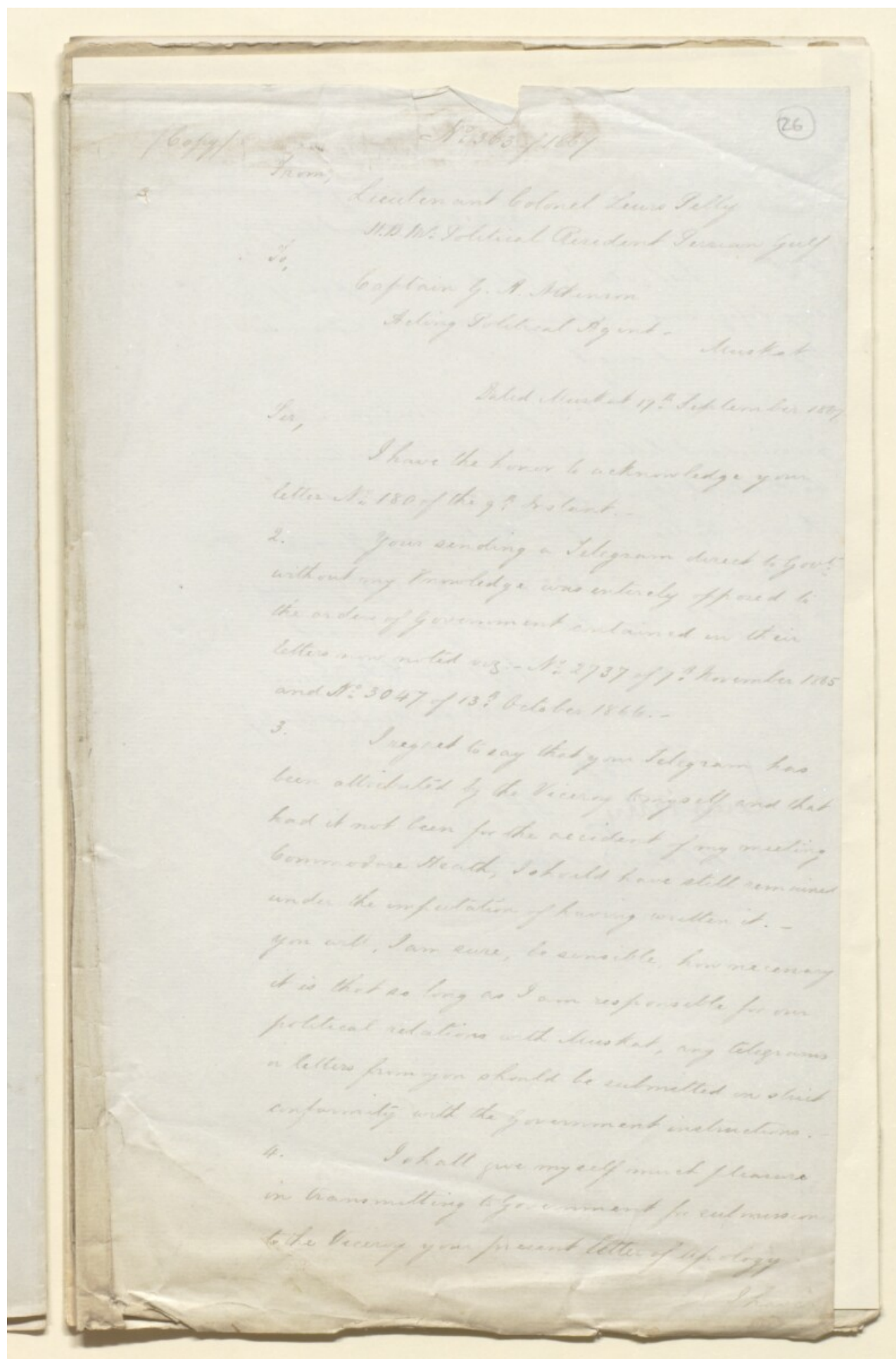
6. It only remains for Her
Majesty's Government to refer to that



portion of the Correspondence under
reply, which relates to the Island of
Bahrein, and to Express their approval
of your having at once informed
Mr. Alison, that the British Government
are not prepared to admit the Persian
pretensions to Sovereignty over it.

I have &c.
(Signed) Cranborne

True Copies
(SD) A. Gowan
Asst. Secretary





I have the honor to be
Sir,
Lieut. Col. Resident Persian Gulf.

P. S. I should be glad to receive copies of
any Telegrams or Letters you may have forwarded
to Government direct.

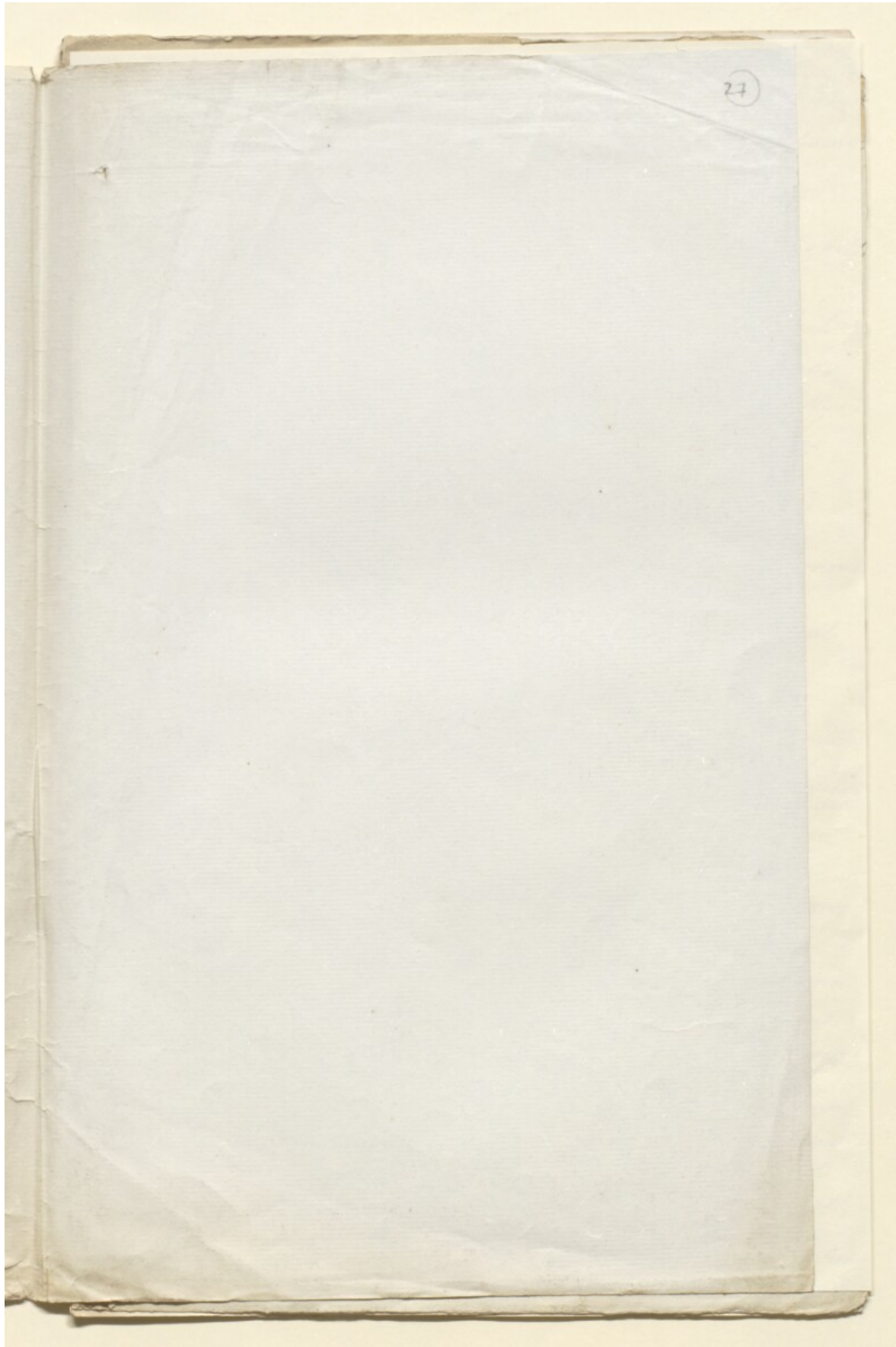
I would draw your attention to the
Government letters above referred to, instructing
the Political Agent at Muskat to correspond
through the Resident in the Persian Gulf, and
in the event of emergency as requiring to forward
a copy of his despatch direct to Government.

Yours faithfully,
Lieut. Col. Resident Persian Gulf.

True copy
Lewis Pelly Lieut. Col.
HBM Pol. Resident Persian Gulf

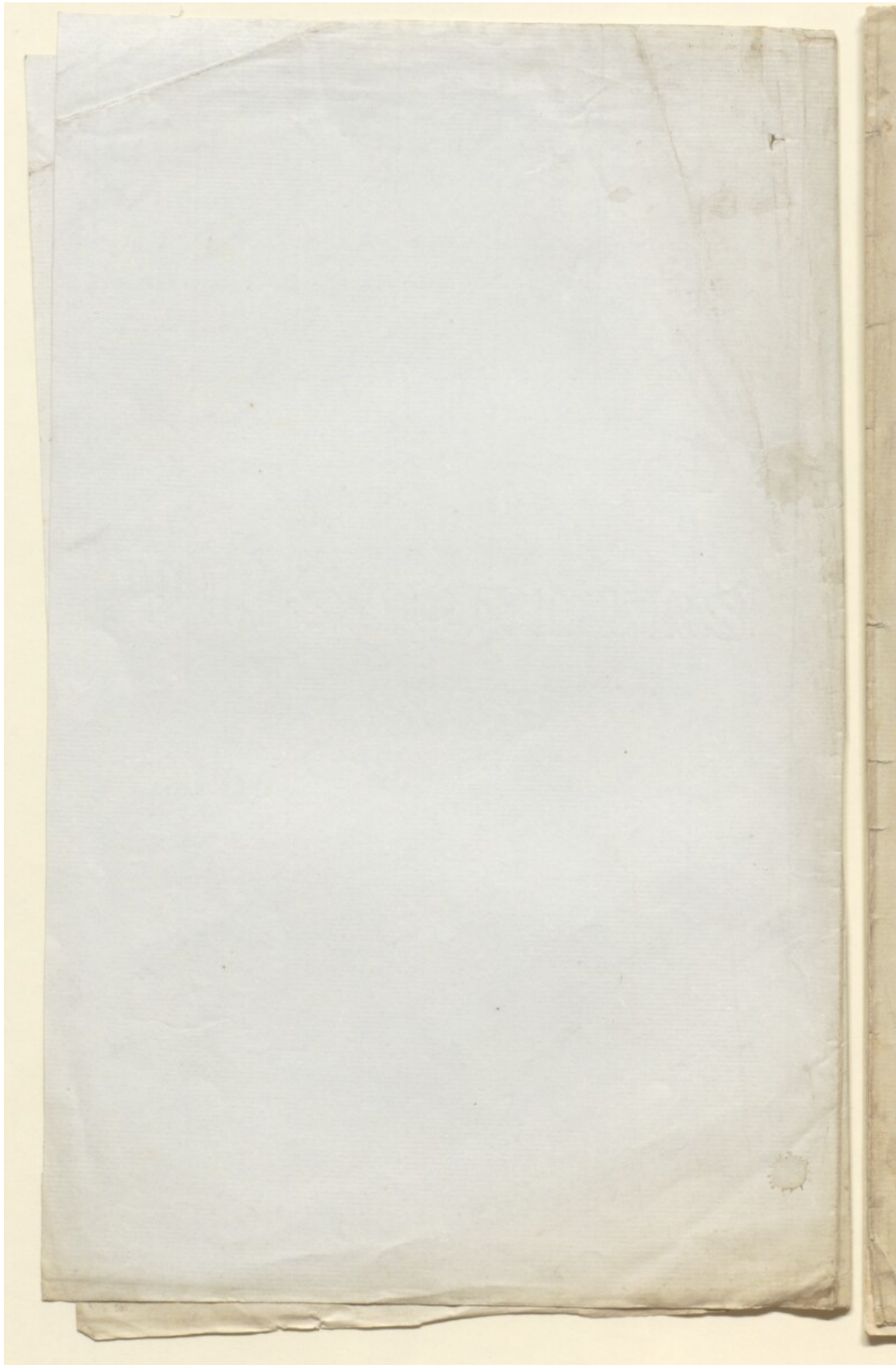


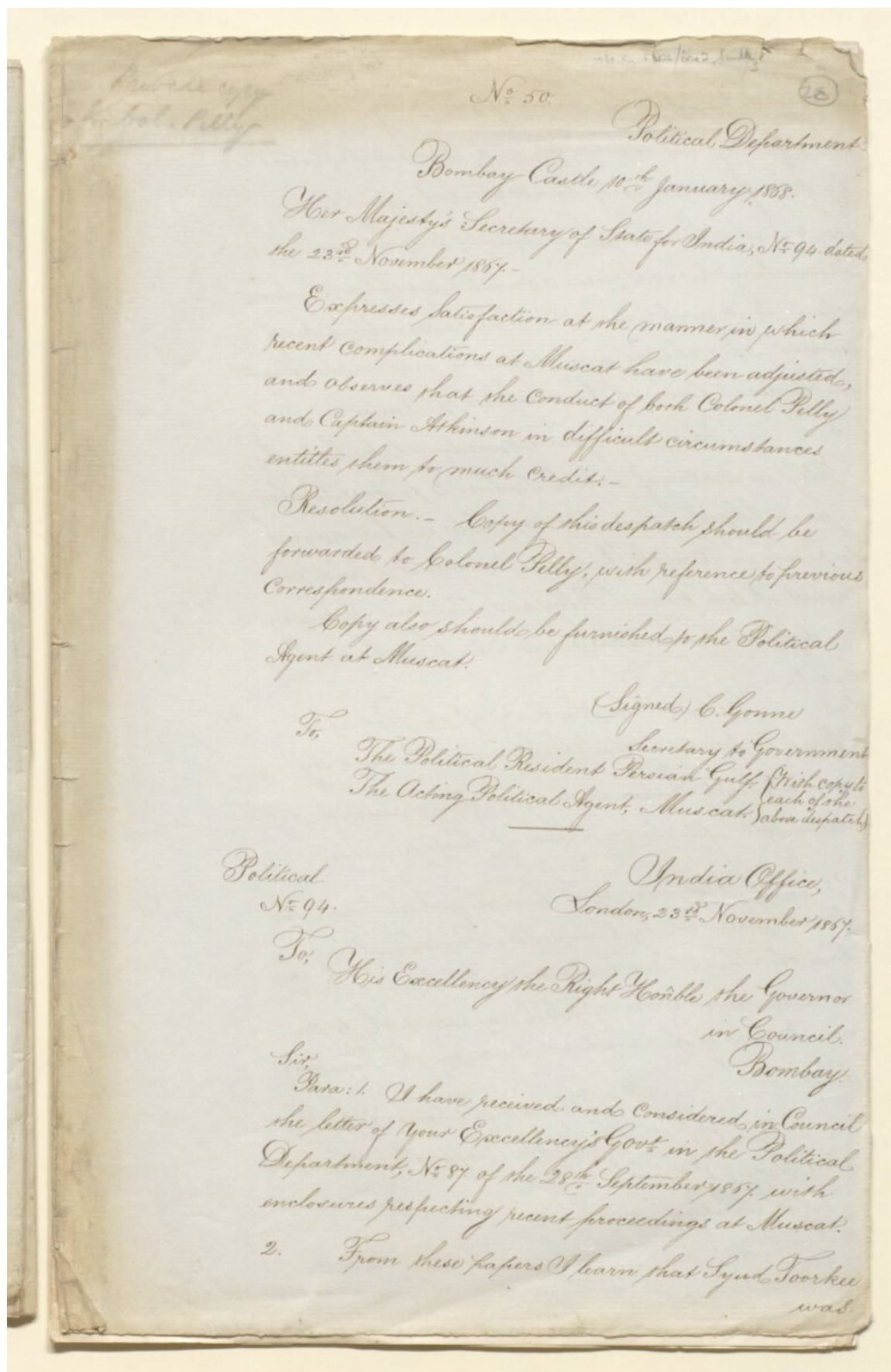
**Copy of letter No. 363 of 1856 from Lieutenant Colonel Lewis Pelly HBM's
Political Resident Persian Gulf, Muskat to Captain George Andrew Atkinson,
Acting Political Agent, Muskat [27r] (3/4)**





**Copy of letter No. 363 of 1856 from Lieutenant Colonel Lewis Pelly HBM's
Political Resident Persian Gulf, Muskat to Captain George Andrew Atkinson,
Acting Political Agent, Muskat [27v] (4/4)**







was induced, by the threat of non-recognition, in the event of his expelling Syuds Saulem of Muscat by force of arms, and of bombardment, should he occupy any town on the seaboard, to desist from prosecuting his enterprise against his nephew, Saulem, when, as it would seem, he had reasonable hopes of success. This threat was, it appears, made, under direct instructions from the Government of India.

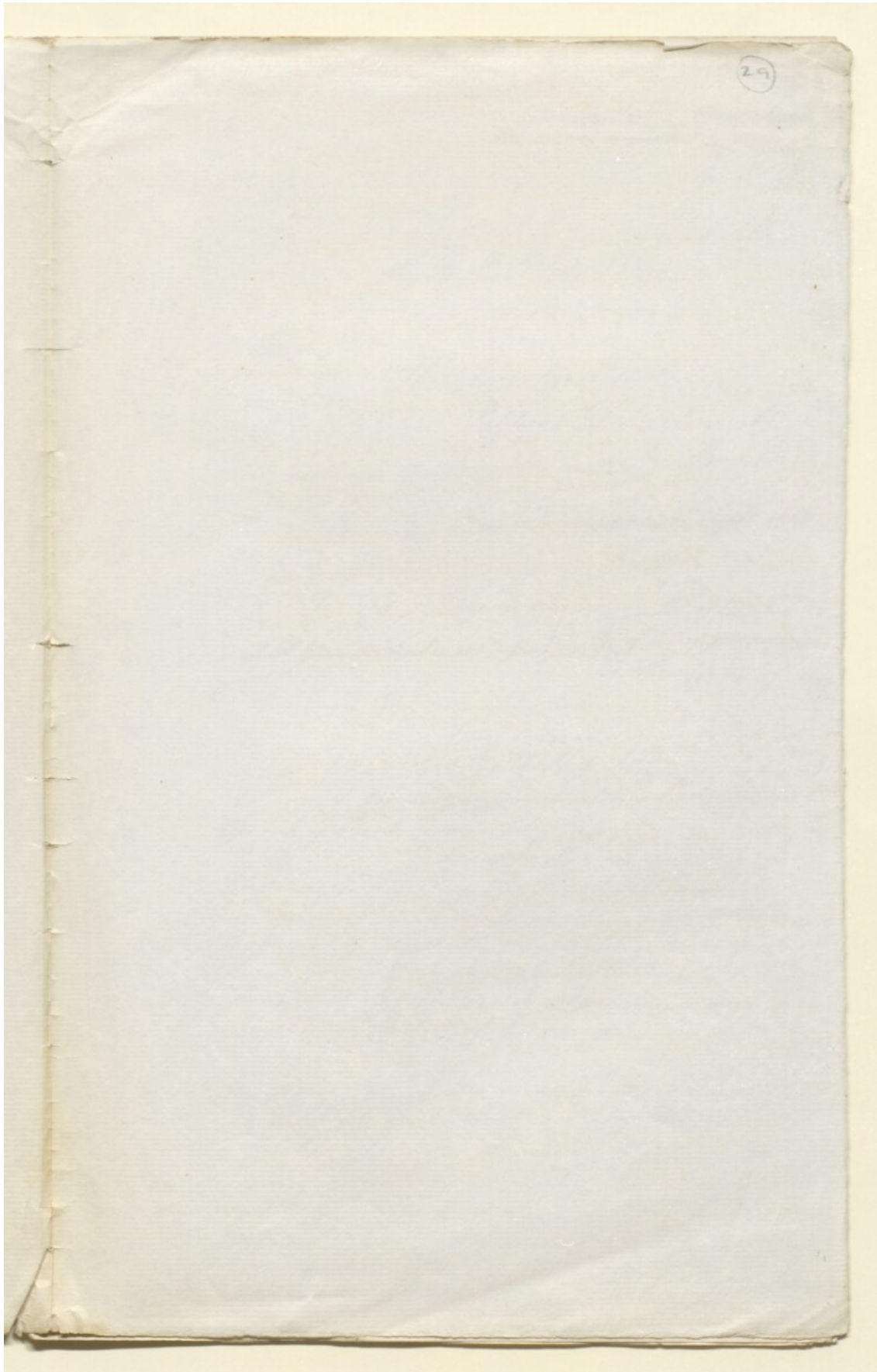
3. The arrangement mediated by Colonel Pelly in virtue of which Saulem is to pay Toorkie a monthly pension of £600, while the latter agrees to reside in British India, is satisfactory; and the conduct of both Colonel Pelly and Captain Atkinson, in difficult circumstances, entitles them to much credit.

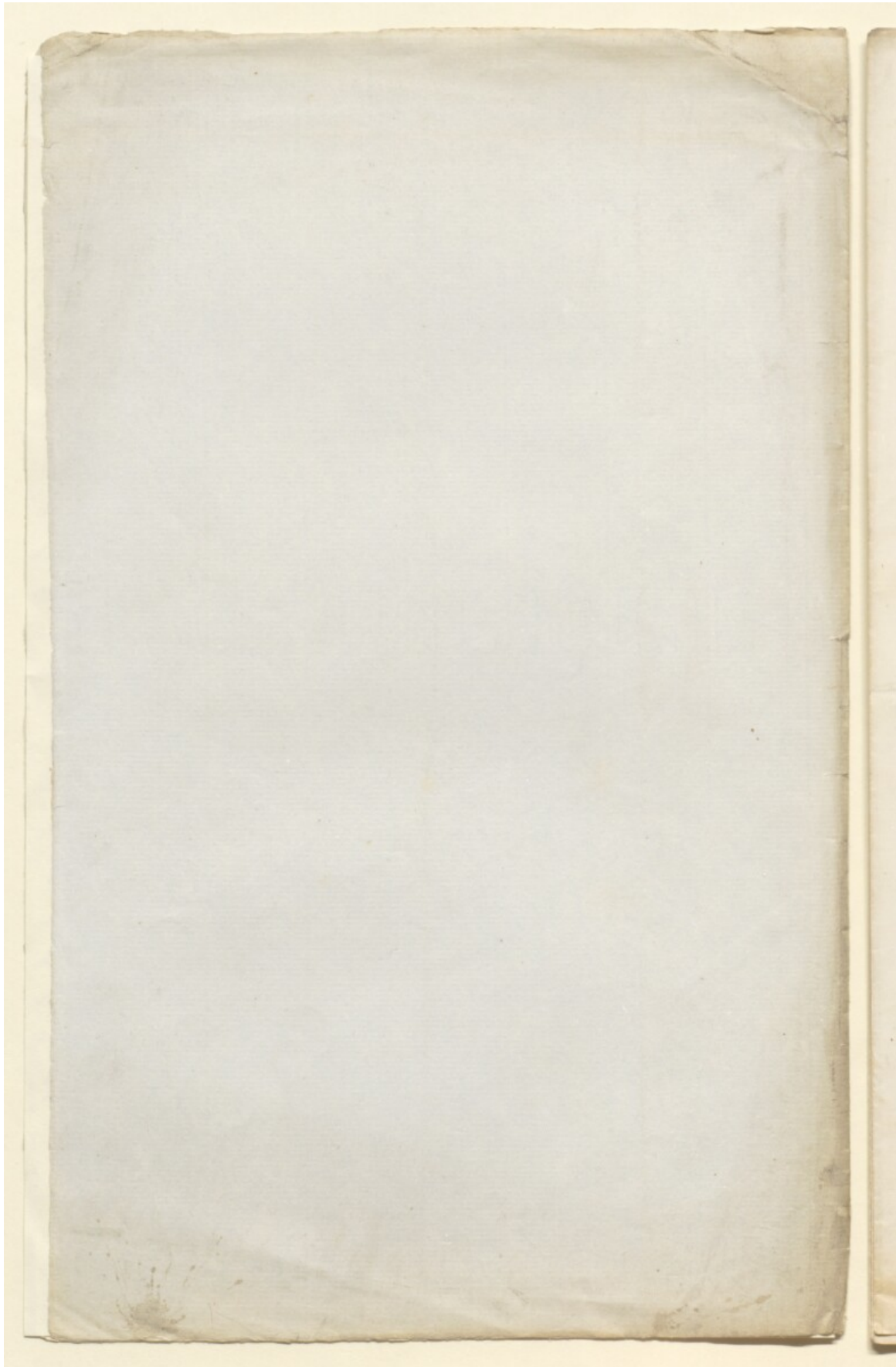
4. It will be the duty of the Political Agent to see to the due observance of the amnesty which Syuds Saulem was very properly required to promulgate after the conclusion of the Agreement.

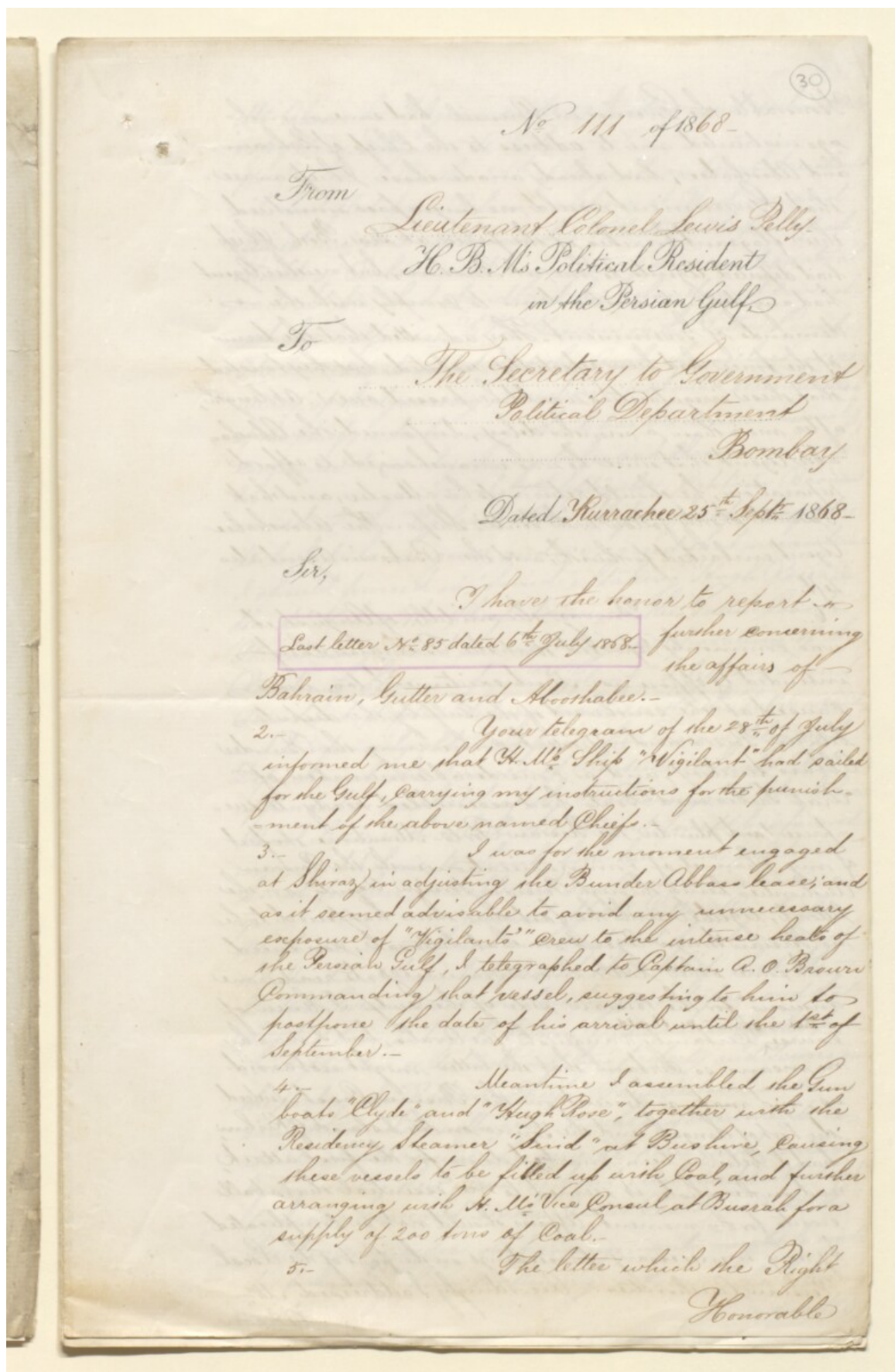
5. I approve your having acknowledged the services rendered by Commodore Heath in bringing to a close hostilities between Saulem and Toorkie, the early termination of which was essential to the maintenance of the maritime peace in the Persian Gulf.

"True Copy"
(Signed) R. Ryan
Asst. Secretary

I have the honor to be, &c.
(Signed) Stafford H. Northcote









Honorable the Governor in Council had some months ago instructed me to address to the Chiefs of Bahrain and Abcoothabee, had already made those Chiefs aware that Government would no longer pass unnoticed their flagrant breaches of the peace, at sea. Both Chiefs had deputed Agents to me, at Bushire, but neither Agent had any definite instructions to comply with the demands of Government. They admitted that the terms of the truce had been repeatedly violated, but they trusted that these irregularities would be passed over. At length, after more than a month's delay, I informed the Abcoothabee Agent that since he was unauthorized to afford reparation, he should return to his Master, and that I would shortly follow with H.M.'s Ships. The Abcoothabee Agent embarked forthwith, and the Bahrain Agent also left.

6. During the middle of August it was commonly reported that the Bahrain Chief intended to oppose us. Much excitement, too, was caused at the southward of the Gulf by the dispute between Persia and Muscat concerning the Bunder Abbas territory, and a considerable number of Arab Tribes and Boats had assembled ready to surprise and plunder the Persian Porto. Meantime the fact of my channel of communication with the Persian Authorities being through Persian Foreign Agents on the littoral, together with the fact that there happened to be no Persian Foreign Agent on that littoral, combined with some other little inconveniences, to render me anxious for the Persian side of the Gulf. I knew of ^{that is opposed me I should} course, certainly vanquish the Arabs, but I was by no means so certain that the latter might not avoid us, and make a descent on the Persian Coast. Indeed the Port of Anzab and the Towns on the Island of Kishm had I believe been marked down for the first attack, and on the whole it seemed to me essential that at all events for the moment, Affairs should not be complicated by any unnecessary proceedings on the part of the Local Persian Authorities. - Accordingly I addressed Mr. Alison



(31)

Mr Alison by Telegram on the 19th idem, and submitted
copy of my Telegrams to India.

7. On the 26th of August, an Arab Merchant
who had fled from Bahrein, met me at Bushire, and
assured me that Mohammed bin Khulufah, the principal
Sheikh of Bahrein and originator of the recent piratical
raids at sea, had abandoned his islands and conceal-
ed himself near Khor Nassar on the Gutter Coast.
The Merchant added that the Arabs themselves were
weary of the tyranny, exactions, and mad eccentricities
of the Chief, a testimony which has been unanimously
confirmed to me by many tribes and classes.

8. On the 1st September, Captain Brown
arrived in the "Vigilant". His ship required a day or two
to look to her engine, and we agreed that meantime
I should proceed in "Scind", taking "Hugh Rose" in
tow to Mukra, the Chief town on the Gutter Coast.
This arrangement necessitating a separation of the
Residency Steamer from "Vigilant", I left my second
Assistant, Captain Sidney Smith, with the latter vessel,
and temporarily obtained from the Persian Telegraph
Department the services of Lieutenant Lovett R.E.
appended is a sketch of the Bahrein and Abroshabee
Coast line, with which Lieutenant Lovett has favored
me, and I have to thank both him and Captain
Smith for their valuable aid on all occasions.

9. Arrived off the Gutter Coast, the
Chief came on board and expressed their breaches of
the Maritime Law, but pleaded their belief that the
British Government would no longer interfere, and that
they had been outraged beyond endurance by the pi-
rate plunders or destruction of their property and persons on
the part of the Bahrein Chiefs. They declared at the
same time their willingness to seal any documents
which should secure the general peace, and concluded
by expressing their desire to hand Mohammed bin Khulufah
(who was concealed on the Gutter Coast) over to the
Residency, in order that arrangements might be made
for preventing him continuing a career, which during
a quarter



a quarter of a century, has increasingly become the terror of his neighbours, and the main obstacle to all progress and accumulation of wealth in his own naturally fortunate Islands. I explained to the Guttur Chiefs that I expected their aid in catching Mohamed ben Khulafa, in order that I might communicate to him the demands of Government, and I concluded by saying that I would return to Guttur after visiting Bahrain.

10. From Guttur I steamed to Bahrain, where, on the evening of the 5th, I rendezvoused with Paktan Brown, who simultaneously arrived with the "Vigilant," having "Clyde" and some coal boats in tow.

11. On the morning of the 6th we went on board "Hugh Rose" and steamed into the inner harbor of Manamleh, on the main Island of Bahrain. The Co-Chief and brother of Shaikh Mohamed, named Sheikh Alee, received in the absence of his brother a letter which I had addressed to the two Chiefs conjointly, and which, after recapitulating their offences, summarized the demands of Government. - Sheikh Alee sent an Agent on board with instructions to state that he was desirous to meet the views of Government; that the offences committed were wholly owing to his brother, that he himself like all his subjects were at length reduced to admit that there was no alternative, other than the ruin of his Country, or the removal of Sheikh Mohamed from Power; and that he would be glad to meet me on shore, or depute an Agent to arrange matters.

12. I replied that the instructions of Government were explicit; that I forwarded him a note of safe conduct, and that I advised him to come on board without delay. - He came accordingly, bringing with him a few of the most considerable persons of Bahrain. - All these representatives concurred in declaring that Sheikh Mohamed ben Khulafa, by his piracies and flight had forfeited his claim to the principal Chieftainship of Bahrain; that if I had come simply for the purpose of vengeance I could carry it into effect; and that justice would be on my side, but that,



32

but that if the real objects of the British Government were the production of peaceable men and the prosperity of the Arab Coast, they, the Shaikhs of Bahrain, would suggest an arrangement under which all demands and interests could be satisfied. Accordingly after a consultation of two days, Shaikh Ali and his Co. Shaikhs returned on board and handed me the subjoined solemn declaration, which was acknowledged and witnessed in the presence of Captain Brown and myself.

Declaration

We the undersigned, Ali ben Khalifa and the inhabitants and subjects of Bahrain, in general, do hereby declare that Mohamed ben Khalifa having repeatedly committed acts of piracy and other irregularities at sea, and having now after his recent piratical act fled from Bahrain, has forfeited all claim to his title as principal Shaikh and Chief of Bahrain, and at the present moment there being no other Shaikh, I Ali ben Khalifa received Resident's letter, addressed to Mohamed ben Khalifa, and have understood the demands therein made, and I hereby agree and accept the conditions as follows:-

1st To make over to-morrow morning, 19th Ramadan - vol. Anwal 1285 (4th September 1868) to the high in rank Captain Brown Commanding H. M. S. Ships present, all the War Bungaloes and Butels belonging to Mohamed ben Khalifa and myself.

2^{ndly} To pay the Resident the sum of one hundred dollars in the manner specified below:-

25,000 Dollars Cash payable on the spot on the 7th September 1868.

75,000 Dollars by three annual instalments of 25,000 \$ each instalment being payable on the 7th September of each successive year, until the total sum is paid up.

3^{rdly} To consider Mohamed ben Khalifa as permanently excluded from all



from all participation in the affairs of Bahrain, and as having no claims to that territory, and in case of his returning to Bahrain, I promise to seize him and make him over to the Resident. But if I do not act up to the stipulations now agreed, I may be considered a pirate, as Mohammed bin Khulefa himself.

and 5thly In view of preserving the peace at sea, and precluding the occurrence of further disturbance, and in order to keep the Resident informed of what happens, I promise to appoint an Agent on my part at Bushire.

Written on the 18th of Zinnadood Aumil 1280
6th September 1868

Agreed to in our presence by Shaikh Alee bin Khulefa and seven other Shaikhs and dependants of Bahrain, whose seals are hereto affixed on the 9th September 1868.

Signed) Lewis Pelly C. B. C.
H. B. M.'s Political Resident
Persian Gulf

Signed) R. A. Brown Commander
Commanding H. M. S. "Vigilant"

13. The proposed arrangement appeared to Captain Brown and myself to be one which His Excellency the Governor in Council would entirely approve. It is true that it provides for the demand of a hundred thousand Dollars being paid in four annual instalments, but, availing myself of the discretionary power with which

Para of Government letter No 1763
of 23rd July 1868.

Government had invested me, I considered that to compel immediate and full payment would involve increased money pressure on the inhabitants, and that extra taxation on the part of a newly selected ruler would tend to discontent. The object was to fulfil the demands of Government without weakening the Chief, whom we looked to for future peace and prosperity. With this view I

Consented



(33)

consented to receive on the spot one fourth of the full demand (a hundred thousand Rupees) as a ~~first~~ instalment, and allowed a portion of the amount to be paid in Bills on a substantial Pearl Merchant known to me at Bushire, thus to the best of my ability relieving the people of Bahrain of all immediate exactions. - This arrangement of instalments had the further advantage of giving us a material hold on the Bahraini Chief for three years to come.

14. As regards the War Craft I demanded the surrender of all ships, belonging whether to Mohamed bin Khalifa, or to Alee bin Khalifa. - But with the full concurrence of Captain Brown I considered it - politic to restore the Craft belonging to Shaikh Alee, in order that we might not too far weaken him. - But in respect to the War Craft and principal fort of Mohamed bin Khalifa, Captain Brown and I considered that under all the circumstances of the case we should misuse the discretion lodged in us by Government if we did not enforce the demand, which he by his flight had perfidiously evaded. - Accordingly on the morning of the 7th we took the Gun Boats "Clyde" and "Hugh Rose" up the creek, which leads to the Moharrag Fort, and anchoring there vessels within three hundred yards of the walls destroyed both Fort and Cannon, and burnt Mohamed's war Crafts lying immediately under the walls of the Fort. I appended to a sketch and ground plan of this Fort with which Lieutenant Lovett has favored me. It was of solid stone and required considerable pounding from the ten inch Guns of "Clyde" and "Hugh Rose" and I have to thank Captains Elton and Downing, commanding these vessels, for their useful co-operation.

15. The son of Shaikh Mohamed bin Khalifa was desirous of buying off his father's war Craft, but Captain Brown and I considered that the moral effect would be lessened if they were not publicly destroyed. - It is agreeable to me to add that in all our proceedings at Bahrain, public opinion was obviously on our side. - Our British Indian Subjects



Subjects expressed their satisfaction by saying it was the first time they had seen day for three years. While on Captain Brown and myself going on shore, the lower classes of Arabs were demonstrative in their joy. -

15. - On the morning of the 16th we re-ammunitioned "Clyde", and giving her one of Hayes' admirable rockets detached her, to lie at anchor under Shaikh Ali's fort, thus affording him the benefit of our moral support and recognition. -

17. - Captain Brown and I then returned with "Vigilant", "Lind" and "Hugh Rose" to Mukrah on the Guttus Coast, where I addressed letters framed in the spirit of the Government instructions to the principal Sheikh. The Chiefs then again came on board, pleading as before their reliance on our non-interference, and vide para above. adding that their own attacks at sea had been purely retaliatory. I explained to them my instructions to visit them with the marked displeasure of Government, but added that if Captain Brown and I could clearly see our way to a solid re-establishment of the peace, we should be prepared, for this time, to give a lenient interpretation to the Government orders. -

18. - Shaikh Mohammed bin Sanea, the principal Chief of Guttus, then gave in the subjoined declaration, which was witnessed by Captain Brown and myself. -

"I Mohammed bin Sanea of Guttus, do hereby solemnly bind myself in the presence of the Lord to carry into effect the undertaken signed terms agreed upon between me and Lieutenant Colonel Pelly, H. B. M.'s Political Resident Persian Gulf."

"1st I promise to return to Goukha and reside peaceably in that Port"

"2nd I promise that on no pretence whatever will I at any time put to sea with hostile intention, and in the event"



(34)

"event of a dispute or misunderstanding arising, will
"invariably refer to the Resident."

"3^{rdly} I promise on no
"account to aid Mohammed ben Khulefa or in any way
"connect myself with him."

"4^{thly} If Mohammed ben
"Khulefa fall into my hands, I propose to hand him
"over to the Resident."

"5^{thly} I promise to main-
"tain towards Shaikh Alee ben Khulefa, Chief of
"Bahrain, all the relations which heretofore subsisted
"between me and the Shaikh of Bahrain, and in the
"event of a difference of opinion arising as to any question
"whether of money payment or other matter, the same is
"to be referred to the Resident."

"Dated on the 24th of Jumadee ul Awwal 1288
"corresponding with the 12th of September 1868
"Signed in our presence by Mohammed ben
"Sancee of Guttur on this the 12th day of September 1868."

Signed / P. A. Brown Captain
Commanding H. M. Steamer
"Vigilant"

Signed / Lewis Pelly Esq. Lt. Col.
H. B. M. Political Resident
Persian Gulf

19. Shaikh Mohammed ben Sancee and the
head Bedouin, Shaikhs of Guttur, further gave in, in
Common, an agreement, under which any tribute due
to Bahrain is to be determined before the Resident and
hereafter to be paid through the Residency, thus provid-
ing against all dispute and collision. - This document
also, was witnessed by Captain Brown and myself.

20. I further addressed a letter to all the
Chiefs of Guttur informing them of the arrangements
arrived at, and warning them of the consequences of
any future breach of the Maritime Truce. -

21. As, however, it appeared that certain
of our British Indian Subjects residing at Bahrain
had been plundered at Hukrah, to the amount of
18,000 Rupees, it seemed just that the Chiefs should
reimburse this sum - I demanded it accordingly
and it



and it was paid:- Six thousand Rupees in Cash, and twelve thousand Rupees by Bill on a wealthy pearl Merchant, at Lingeh - the bill being secured by a Bag of Pearls, made over to me sealed for delivery to the Pearl Merchant on payment of the Bill.

22.- On the evening of the 12th the "Sind" took both "Vigilant" and "Hugh Rose" in tow (as the saving of Coal was an object) and we then proceeded to Abooshabee. - Arriving at that Port on the morning of the 14th, Captain Brown and I pulled on shore and delivered to the Chief's son, a letter drawn up in conformity with the instructions of Government. - But this Chief, whose Tribe is powerful and whose strategic position between the Muscat and Wahabe territories, has heretofore given him great weight, seemed quite unable to realize that Government were at length resolved to check his irregularities. He sent an Agent with an evasive letter on board; and Captain Brown then moved the ships close in shore. - Again the Chief sent an evasive letter on board, and it became necessary to assure him that if further delay ensued, compliance with the Government demands would be enforced.

23.- At the same time it appeared to me undesirable at the present moment to resort to force, if our object could any way be otherwise obtained, and this because our merchants at Abooshabee have many lacs of Rupees invested in the Pearl season now closing, and which would probably be lost to them were the Abooshabee Port to be destroyed and the Pearl divers to desert it in favor of some other Port.

24.- On the following morning therefore, I requested Hajee Ahmed the Muscat Minister to favor me by calling on the Chief, thus convincing him that the Government were the earnest. I added that if by ten o'clock the Chief did not bring on board a written compliance with our demands, the ships' guns would open on his Fort.

25.-

At half after nine the Chief came on board



(35)

on board and handed me the subjoined declaration which was witnessed by Captain Brown and myself.

"I sayid bin Khuleefa, do hereby
"in the presence of Colonel Pelly Resident Arabian
"Gulf, bind myself and agree to the conditions
"stated below:-

"1st That hereafter I should not
"commit any disturbances whatsoever in breach
"of the peace at sea; but if any happen on my part,
"I should suffer the consequences."

"2nd That I should pay to
"the Resident, the sum of twenty five thousand
"Dollars by instalments specified below:-
"19,000 Dollars to be paid at once in cash on this
"the 28th Jemadee-ool-Awwal 1285-16th
"September 1868-
"8,000 Dollars to be paid in the month of -
"Moharram 1285- and
"8,000 Dollars to be paid in the month of -
"Rajab 1285-"

"3rd That I should not
"prevent the people who have been removed
"from Guttur to return to their houses if they
"should so wish."

"4th That I should make
"over to Abd-ool-Rahman, British Agent, the
"Machoua (boat) given me by Alee ben Khuleefa,
"on her return from Busrah."

"Written on the 28th Jemadee-ool-Awwal 1285
"16th September 1868."

Signed and sealed by -
Sayid bin Khuleefa.

"Agreed to in our presence by Sayid bin Khuleefa;
"Chief of Aboukhabeer on the 16th September 1868."

(Signed) R. L. Brown Captⁿ
Commanding H. M. S. "Herald"
"Vigilant"

(Signed) Lewis Pelly Esq^t
H. B. M. Political Resident
Persian Gulf

P.S. The mares plundered and sold by this Chief
were sent on board to the Resident and the Chief's guns
were



were publicly surrendered and returned to him on deposit pending good conduct. -

(Signed) Lewis Pelly
Political Resident
Persian Gulf

26. The Chief further sent on board to me the two Arab mares which he had received from the Bahraini Shaikh as portion of the Guttur plunder. These mares are now at Basoolah in charge of the 1st Assistant Resident - Their owner the Shaikh of Wuhra, has been invited to send a duly authorized Agent to receive charge of them. I warned the owner however that if for the future he or any other Chief should take the law into his own hands, instead of referring to the Resident, and should thus lose his mares, I would indeed, compel the plunderer to give them up, but that instead of restoring them I would cause them to be publicly shot.

27. As regards the guns (ten in number) of the Abooshabee Shaikh, it seemed proper that he should surrender them, but at the same time there was risk, if he were deprived of them, that Fort might be insulted by the Bedouins, and that injury would result to the trade of the Port. - Arranged, therefore in concert with Captain Brown, that the guns should be surrendered, and then returned to the Chief on deposit pending good conduct - thus taking a guarantee for the future.

28. Accordingly the second Assistant Resident and the gunnies of "Vigilant" proceeded on shore with the Chief, and the Guns were publicly surrendered and returned. Appended is a copy of Captain Smith's report, and a Tabular Statement, showing the description and number of Guns.

29. I could perceive at the conclusion of our proceedings that the Abooshabee Chief was humbled, and I hope and think he will pause before he again disturbs the peace. -

The Chief



(36)

30. The Chief complained, however, that it was a practice among the Pearl divers to receive an advance from the Chiefs or Merchants of one Port, and then at the conclusion of the season, to depart with their gains to some other Port. He reasonably requested that, if he refrained from forcibly recalling the divers, arrangements should be made for the just settlement of claims so arising. Accordingly I addressed a Circular letter to the several Chiefs, on this subject, providing for the surrender of persons so evading their lawful debts.

31. With Aboshaher our proceedings under the Government letter concluded, and I venture to trust that Government may judge they have been conducted with prudence and moderation, and with a careful endeavour to secure future peace and progress without resorting to present force. I cannot too sincerely thank Captain Ralph A. C. Brown, Commanding, Her Majesty's Ship "Vigilant" for his most cordial and able co-operation. The exposure and exertions sustained by his 1st Lieutenant John Hugh Parrinbridge in command of the boats and by Mr. Frederick Lull, Acting Gunner on board "Vigilant" came prominently under my notice.

32. ^{which} Appended is a copy of a letter of thanks I have addressed to Captain Brown, and to which I would respectfully solicit the attention of His Excellency in Council.

33. Government will remark that in assenting to restoration of some, and to the burning of others, of the War Craft, Captain Brown forewent what would otherwise have become prize; and it seems my duty to bring this circumstance under the notice of Her Majesty's Indian Government.

34. From Aboshaher we showed the Ships



ships along the line of Ports on the pirate Coast. The Chiefs of Shargah and Dibai came on board, and as the former had been frequently reported "troublesome and guilty of minor breaches of the peace, I explained to him what we had done at Bahrein, and gave him a solemn but polite warning. I recommended him also to make over to our Native Agent, for restoration to its owner, a mare plundered from Guttur, and given by the Bahrein Chief to him of Shargah - This he promised forthwith to do.

35. At Shargah our vessels dispersed. "Hugh Rose" conveyed the Muscat Minister, Hajee Ahmed, to Bunder Abbas, where he is about to arrange the administration of that District. Hajee Ahmed has now been at my side during many months, whether at Shiraz, or on the Arab Coast, and it is due to him to record the temper and tact he has shown, and the readiness with which he has aided me at any hour of the day or night, I think it possible that His Excellency in Council might judge fit to notice to the Sultan of Muscat, the efficiency and fidelity with which the Minister has acted for His Highness.

36. From Shargah the Presidency Steamer "Sind" crossed over to Lingeh, in view to catching the Mail Steamer to Bushire - She conveyed Dr. A. N. Hyl, the Presidency Surgeon, who on the present as on many previous occasions has ever been ready to assist in any manner. Captain Westbrook Commanding "Sind" has also afforded me most willing and useful aid.

37. From Shargah I proceeded in the "Vigilant" to Mussumund Station, whence I submitted a telegraphic report to Bombay and Simlah. The Viceroy was pleased to consider "results as very satisfactory."

38. From Mussumund it was necessary for me



32
for me to continue in "Vigilant" so far as Kurrachee, to which Port Captain Brown was bound and where we could complete our reports, for preparing which we had found no leisure during the course of operations.

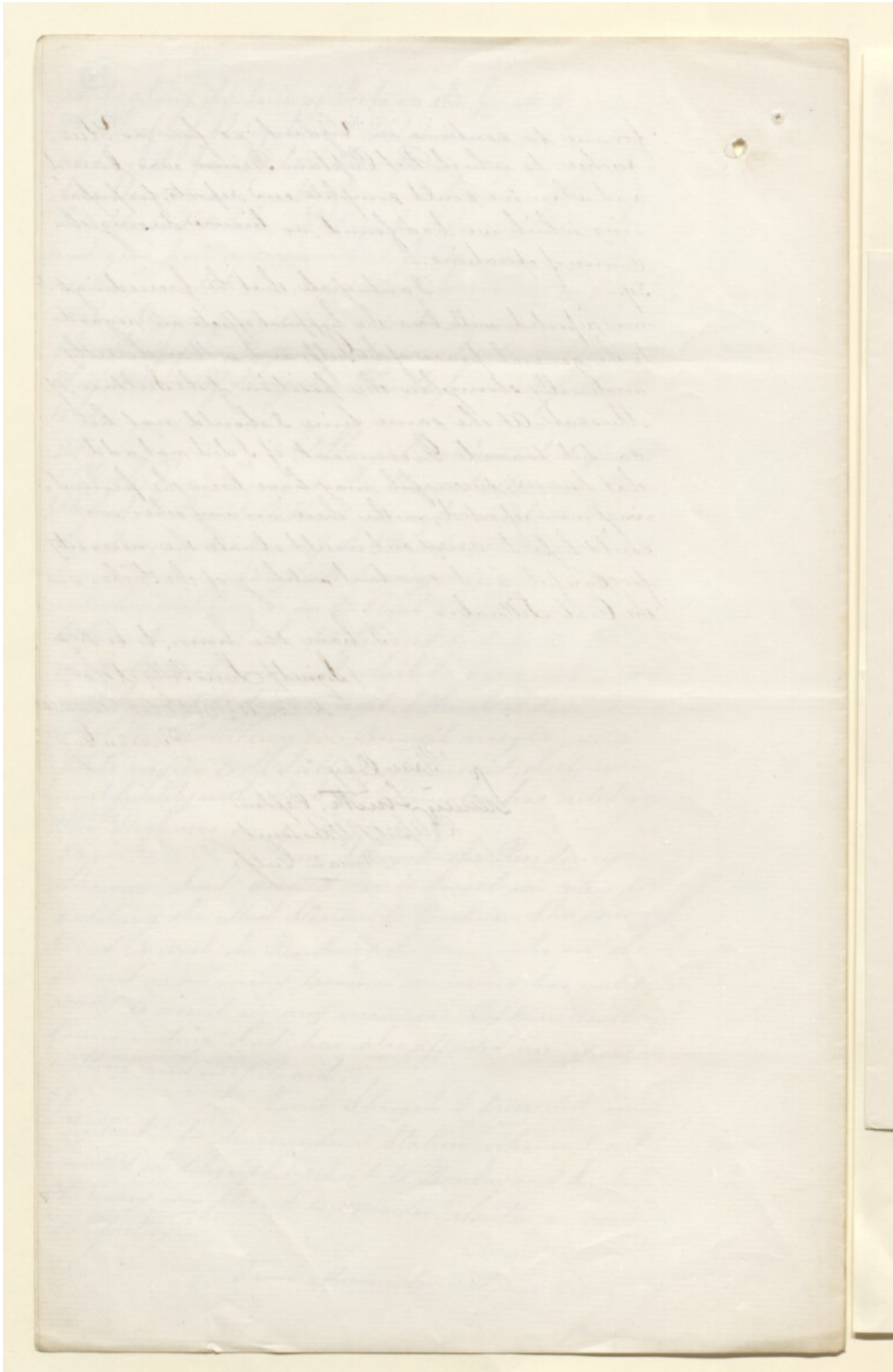
39.- I anticipate that the proceedings now reported will have the happiest effects in regard to the general peace of the Gulf, and will indirectly materially strengthen the position of the Sultan of Muscat. At the same time I should not be candid towards Government, if I did not add - that however, successful may have been the proceedings now reported, neither these nor any other we could hope to carry out, would obviate the necessity for careful and constant watching of the Tribes on the Arab Littoral.

I have the honor, to be
Yours
/Signed/ Lewis Pelly Esq
H. B. M.'s Political Resident
Persian Gulf

"True Copy"
Stanley Smith, Captain
H. B. M.'s Political Resident
Persian Gulf



Letter No. 111 of 1868 from Lieutenant Colonel Lewis Pelly, HBM's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, at Kurrachee [Karachi] to The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay [37v] (16/16)





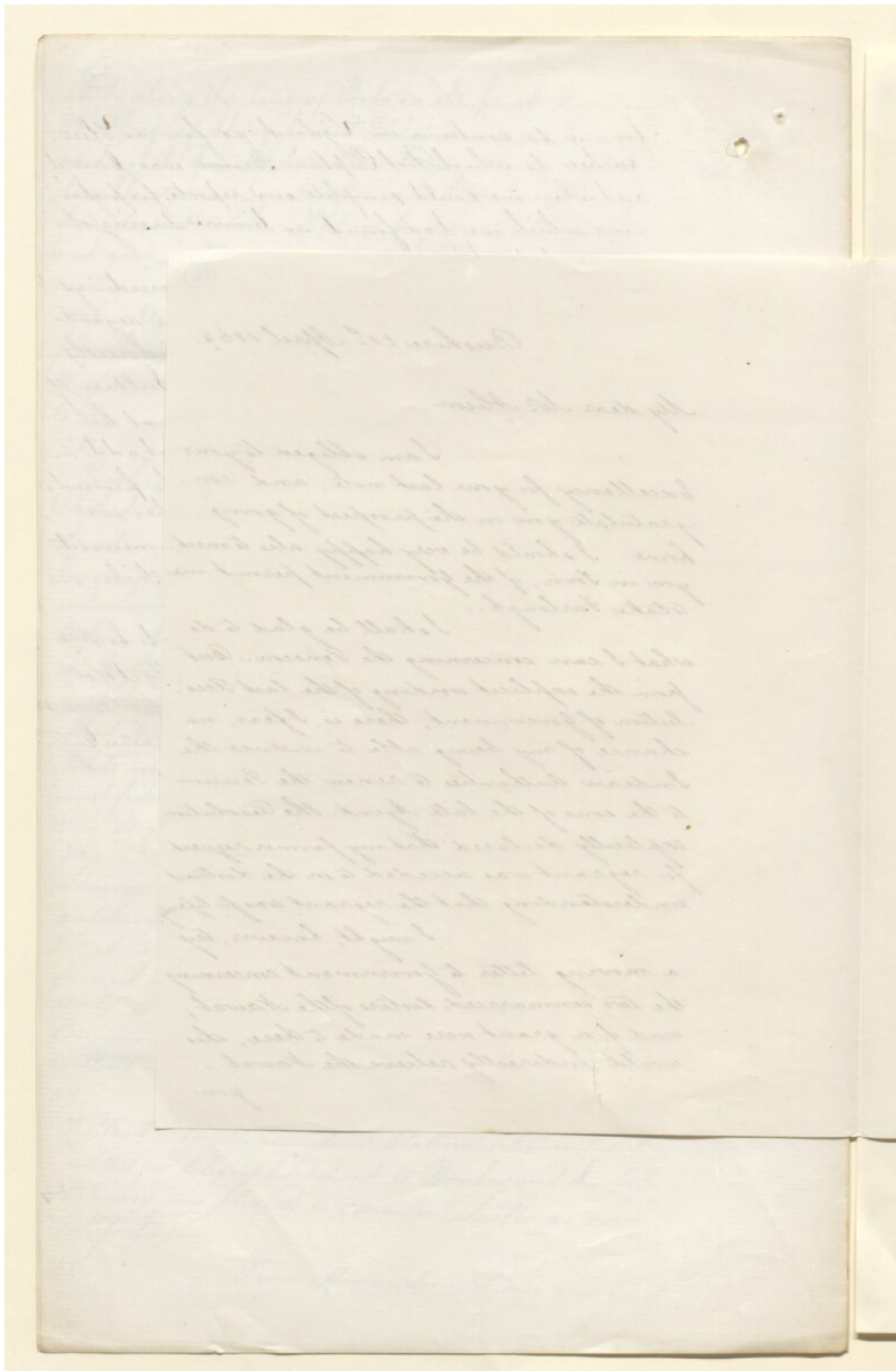
(38)
Bushire 21st April 1869.

My dear Mr. Alison,

I am obliged to your Excellency for your last note, and congratulate you on the prospect of going home. I should be very happy also to meet you in Town, if the Government permit me to take furlough.

I shall be glad to do what I can concerning the Pension. But from the explicit wording of the last Resolution of Government, there is, I fear, no chance of my being able to induce the Indian Authorities to renew the Pension to the sons of the late Agent. The Resolution explicitly declared that my former request for regrant was acceded to on the distinct understanding that the regrant was for life only.

I might, however, try a moving letter to Government concerning the two unmarried sisters of the Nawab; and if a grant were made to these, this would indirectly relieve the Nawab. -
you





(39)

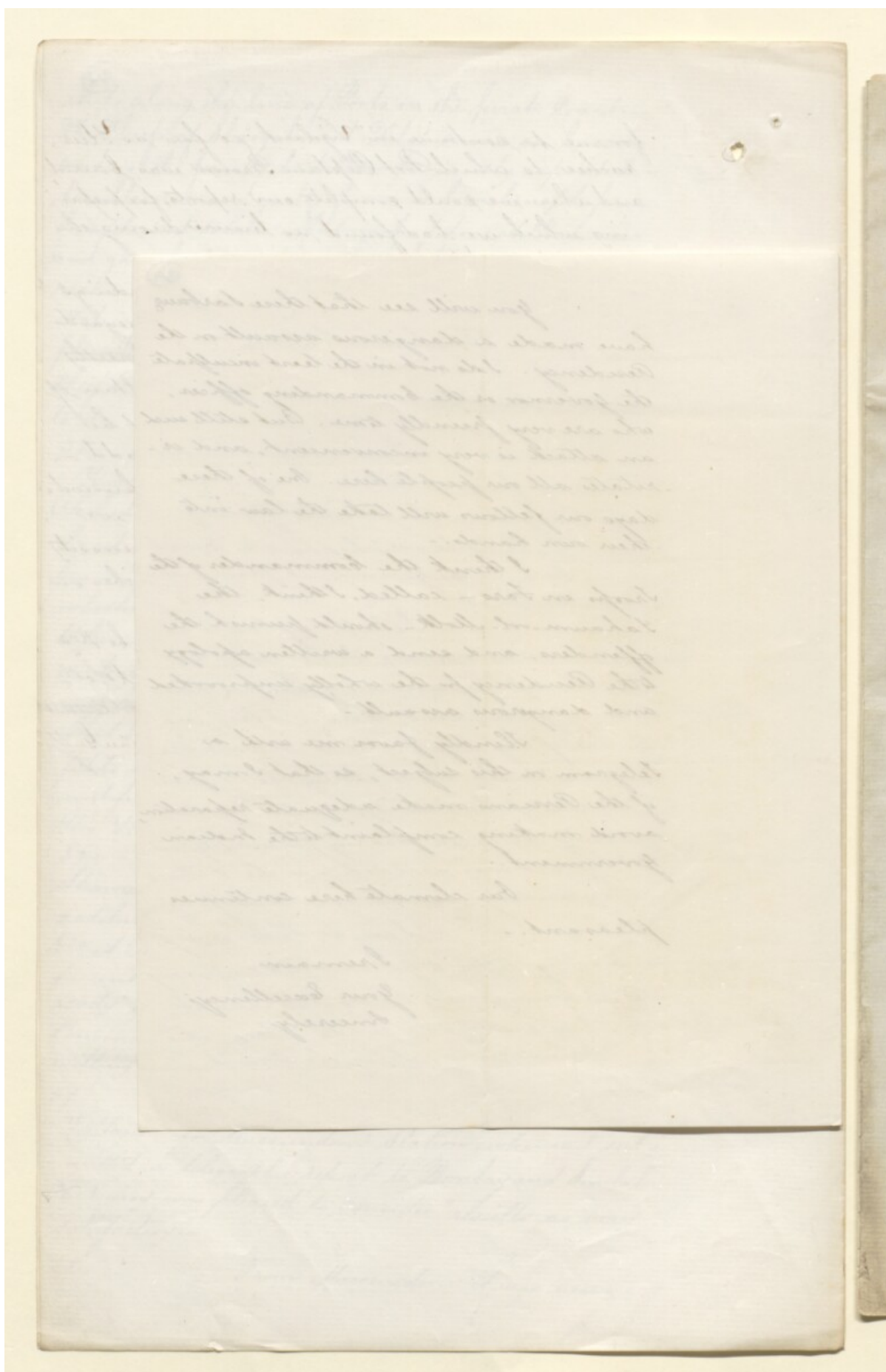
You will see that these Sarbaus
have made a dangerous assault on the
Residency. I do not in the least inculcate
the Governor or the Commanding officer,
who are very friendly to me. But still such
an attack is very inconvenient, and ir-
ritates all our people here. One of these
days our fellows will take the law into
their own hands. -

I think the Commander of the
troops in Saro - called, I think, the
Sakau-m-ol. Molk - should punish the
offenders, and send a written apology
to the Residency for the wholly unprovoked
and dangerous assault. -

Kindly favor me with a
Telegram on this subject, so that I may,
if the Persians make adequate reparation,
avoid making complaint to the Indian
Government. -

Our climate here continues
pleasant. -

I remain
Your Excellency
Sincerely





MS Eur. F. 126 40
Box 2

Confidential
N^o 1399 of 1869

From, C. Gonne, Esquire,
Secretary to Government,
Bombay.

To, The Political Resident,
Persian Gulf.

Political Department, Dated 8th July 1869
Sir,

Referring to your report, N^o 1, dated
the 15th January last, regarding the affairs
of Bahrein, I am directed to forward to you,
confidentially, copy of a letter and of its
enclosures from the Secretary to the Govern-
ment of India in the Foreign Department,
N^o 786, dated the 7th ultimo, and to request
that you will be guided by the views
of Her Majesty's Government respecting
Bahrein.

2. You are also requested to submit
any information you may possess as to
the time of Shakh Mahomed bin Khalifa's
visit, reporting at the same time any
circumstances



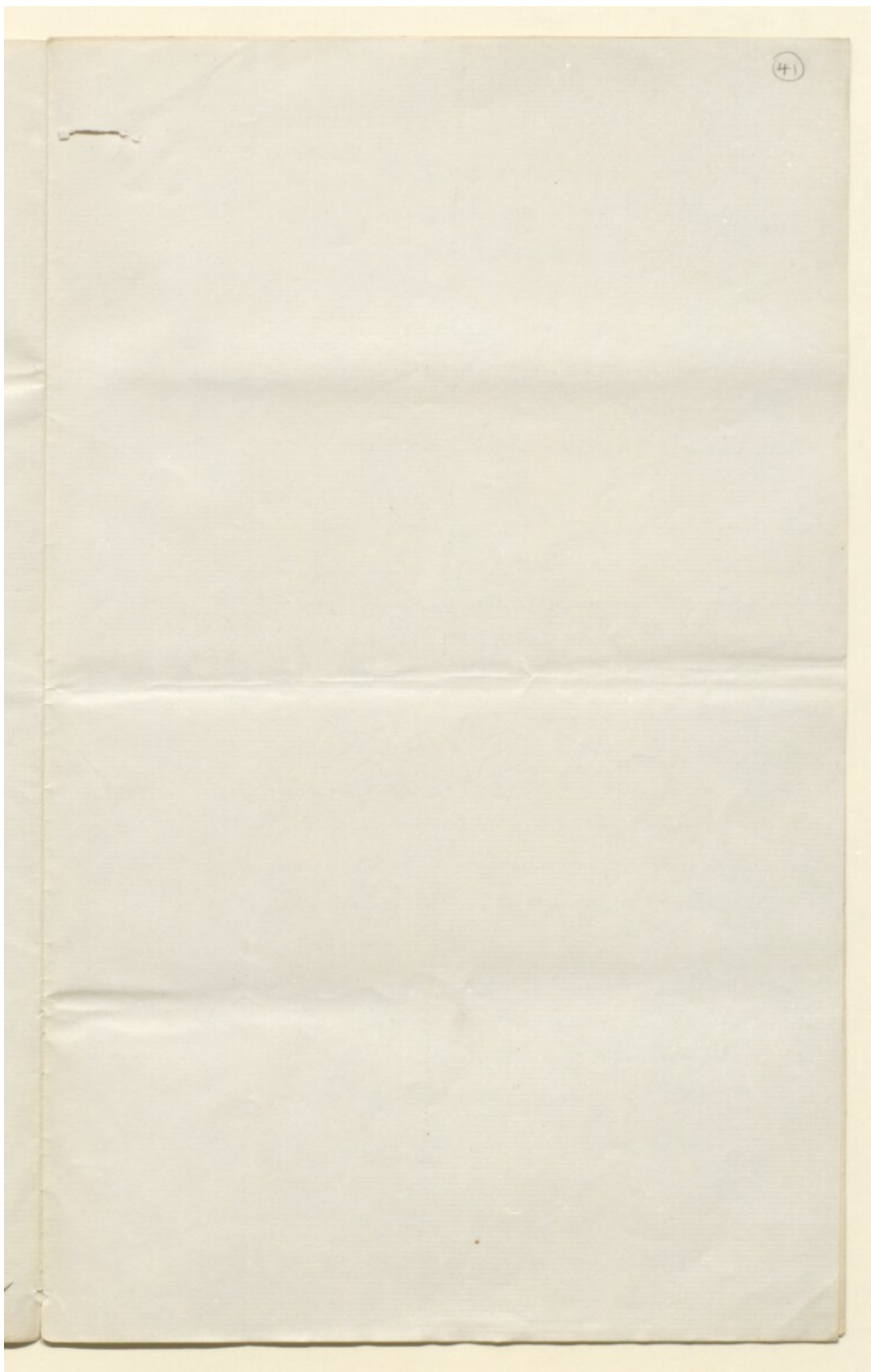
circumstances connected with it of
which you may be aware -

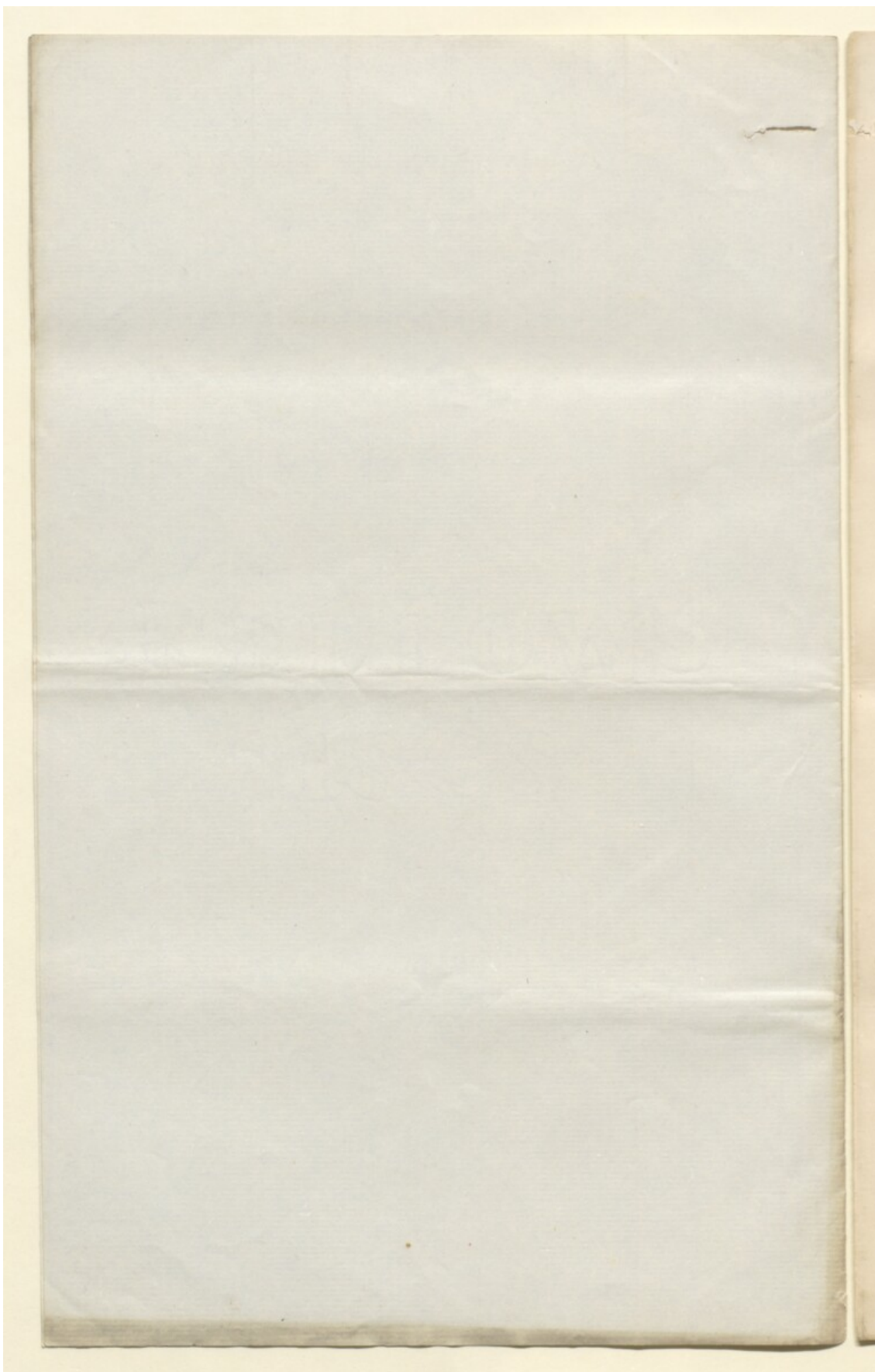
I have the honor to be,
Bombay Castle Sir,
8th July 1869. Your most obedient servant

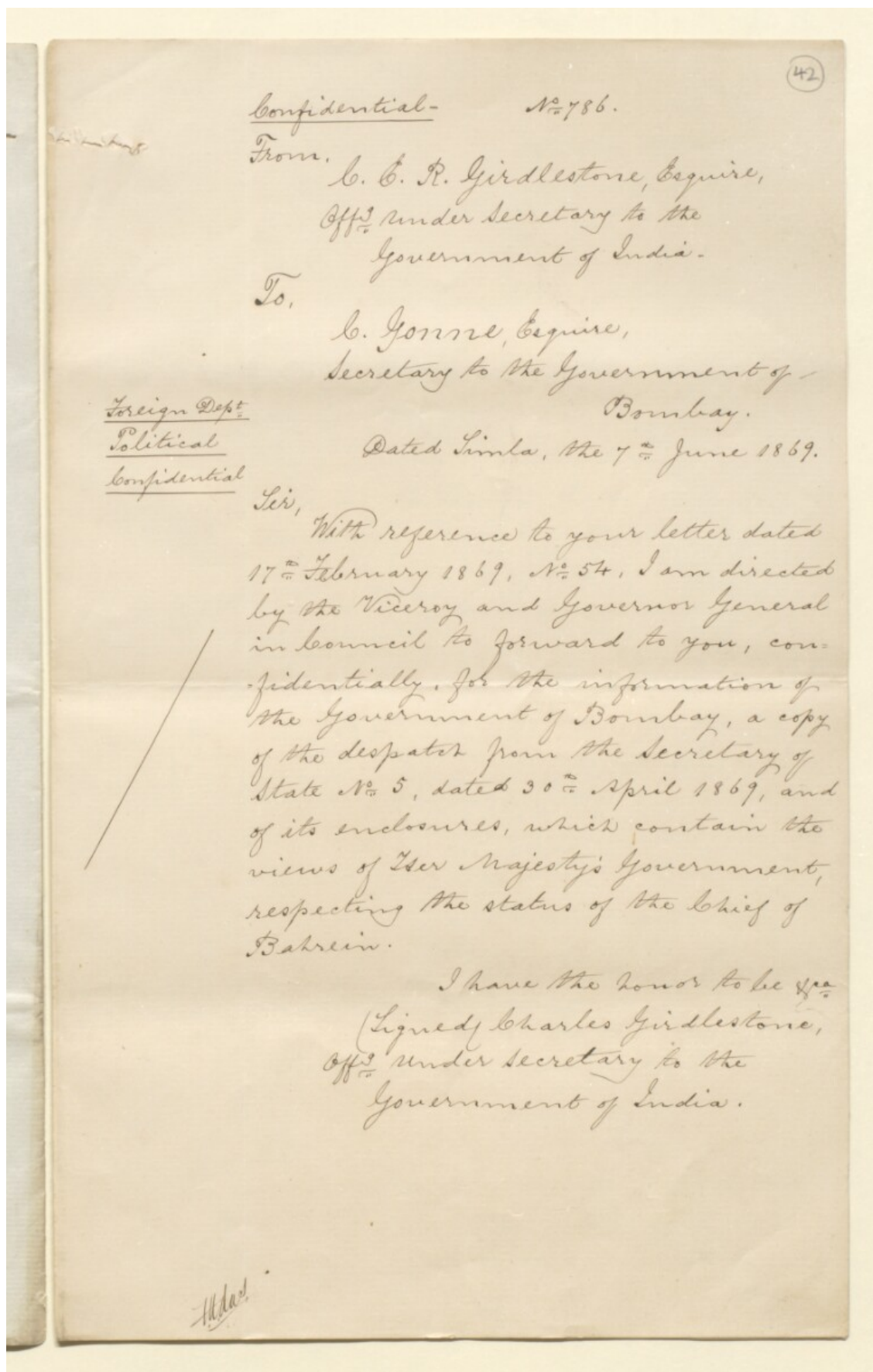
Chas Gonne
Secretary to Government

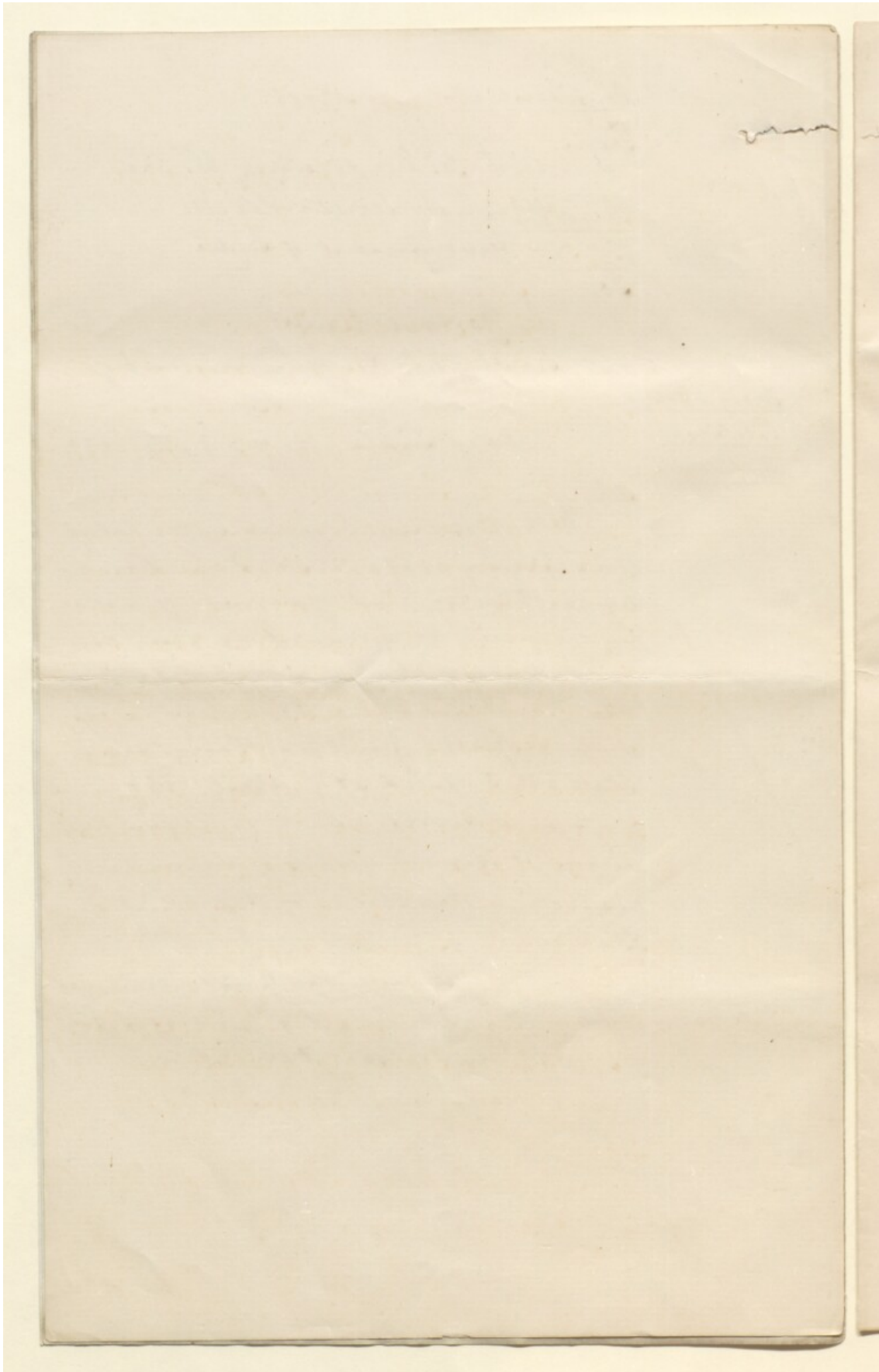
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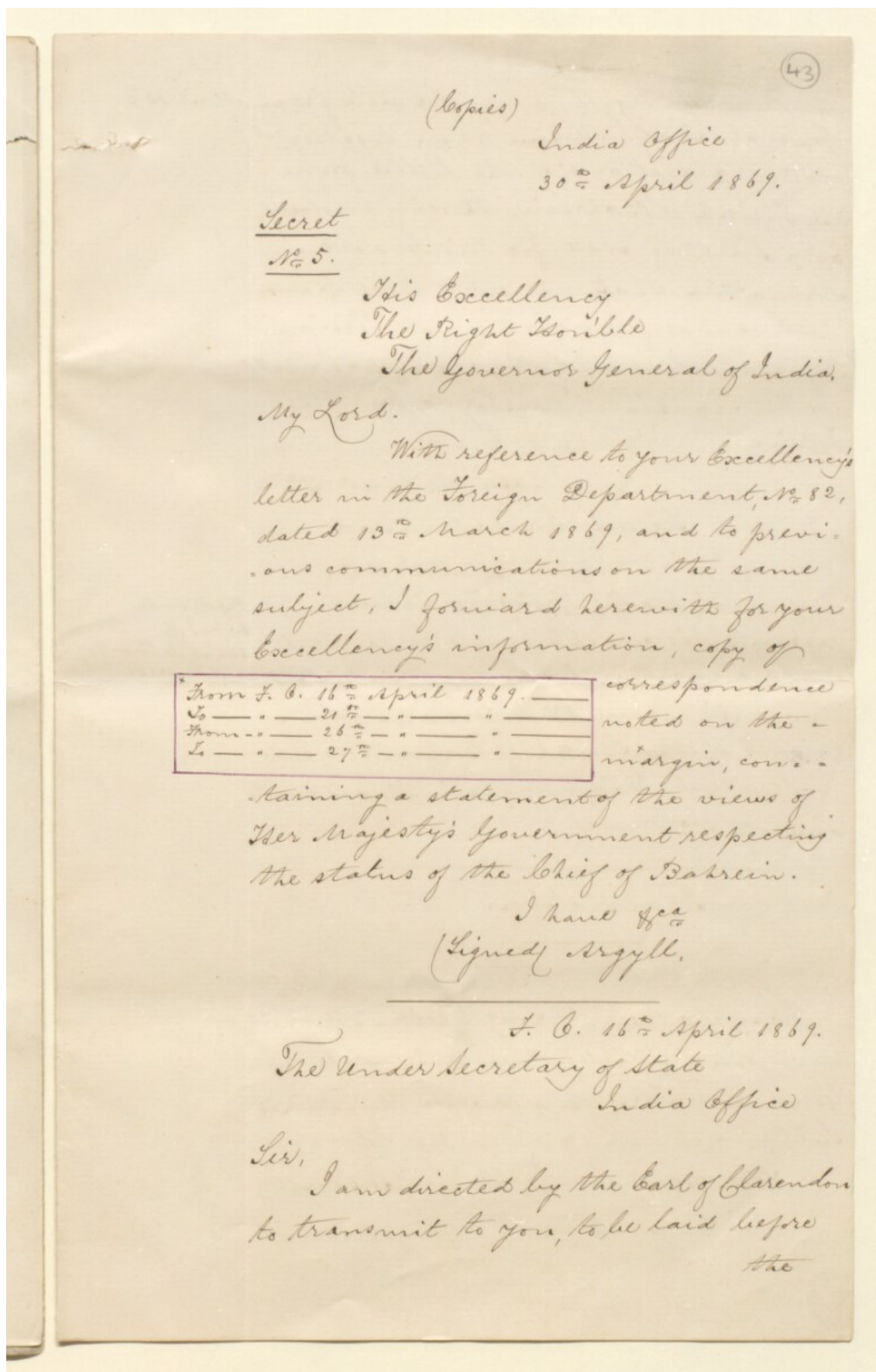
P. H. G.













the Duke of Argyll, a copy of a note from April 13th
General Hadji Mohsin Khan together
with translations of the letters from
the Sheikh of Bahrein, therein enclosed,
and I am to state for His Grace's in-
formation that one set of these trans-
lations was furnished by the Persian
Representative and the other was made
by the Translator employed by this
office.

I have the honor &c

(Signed) C. Hammond.

April 13th 1869.

General Hadji Mohsin Khan
presents his compliments to the Earl
of Claremont and has the honor to
transmit herewith letters and trans-
lations of the Sheikh of Bahrein to H.E.

Legation de
S. M. L. Le
Schah de Pers
a Londres.

General Hadji Mohsin Khan avails
himself &c

Translation.

Copy of a petition by Sheikh Muham-
med, son of Khalifa, which he wrote to the
Governor of Lar, the Nawab Husam's
Sultana.

The petition to the resplendent
presence



(44)

presence of the most noble, most illustri-
ous, most high, most exalted and goodly
Nawab Hussain's Sultana, the days of
whose puissance, greatness, and glory may
God prolong!

The sacred mandate, worthy of all
obedience, which was issued for the up-
raising of the head of (me) the servant
(of Y. H.) together with a shawl belook,
which was sent as a robe of honor, have
we been glorified by (receiving on) their
arrival in the charge of the exalted
Mirza Shahdi, a clerk for Foreign
affairs and unto us there ensued, by
the multitude of the kindnesses of
the great and goodly Nawab, the
extreme of exultation. Also the com-
munications which were on the
exalted part of the great and goodly
Nawab, the said exalted personage
delivered unto us, and they be-
came a cause of great hopes of (your)
servant.

And the arrangement, the decla-
ration of which was necessary, did
we settle with the said exalted per-
sonage, and it is as clear as the
dazzling sun that the islands of
Bahrein are a part of the land of
the dominions of the exalted (Persian)
state



state, and also that we are the subjects and
servants of the exalted state. And our petition
is a petition to the resplendent presence of
His Most Exalted Majesty, powerfully puissant,
the shadow of God upon earth, the Sultan
divinely strengthened and rendered suc-
cessful, the cream of the Sultans of the
horizons, the Possessor of the Kingdom
by inheritance and by merit the King of
Kings, may our souls be his sacrifice, and
may God eternize his rule and his do-
minions; and we have presented it,
and the said exalted personage will
submit it to the sacred presence.

And on the subject of the
pilgrims to Mecca, and of their
journeying by the route of the land
of Najd, by means of the Imam -
Laysal, son of Tarkhi(?) of the house
of Lusuud, the exalted Mirza Mahdi
proposed, in conformity with instruc-
tions to send some one to him to
settle the arrangement of this question.
In accordance with the requirements
of the sincerity and fidelity which actuate
your servant, I did not deem it right
that the Imam Laysal should ne-
gative his word by his deed; and he
never fulfils that which he under-
takes. - Also the - - - - -

Sheikhs

M. Gonne



45
Sheikhs of the Arabs who are in these parts
do not obey him, and in the end there would
only be detriment to the pilgrims.

Now by the power of God and by His
might, your servant is about to set out, in
the days after the fast for Kuvayt; and I will
go to the tribes of Arabs who inhabit the road
from Kuvayt to Mecca, which may God en-
-moble! and I will assemble them, and I will
covenant with them on the part of the Com-
-mander of the Pilgrims' Caravan, and I will
lay the details before the presence of the Govt
of the Exalted State, and whatever they see
fitting, that will perform. And when the
mandate shall issue to your servant that
I shall undertake to enable the pilgrims with
God's assistance to travel by the road from
Kuvayt to Mecca the honored, and that I
shall cause them to return to the post of
Abu. Shahr (Bushire) in health and safety,
let your sacred opinion be made manifest.

And at the present time when the
exalted Mirza Mahdi is returning, we send
with



with him, in extreme humility and exceeding
confusion a Naher (?) horse of the most noble
of the steeds of the Arabs in the form of a
very humble offering to the sacred presence.
It is begged that you will close your eyes to his
worthlessness, and honor us by acceptance,
glorifying us with the issue of the sacred
mandates worthy of all obedience, on all
occasions, for the performance of services, and
the most noble and exalted command shall
be obeyed.

Submitted the 17th Ramadan 1276

(April 9th 1869)

Translated by Mr. Redhouse

London 14th April 1869.

Translation.

Copy of translation (from Arabic into Persian)
of a petition of Shaykh Muhammed, son of
Khalifa, which he presented to the blessed ground
under the feet of his most exalted, most
sacred and august Majesty, mighty as fate,
the King of Kings for whom may our souls
be



be a sacrifice.

He submits to the blessed ground under
the feet of his most exalted powerfully prin-
-sant, mighty as fate and most sacred Majesty
the King of Kings glorious as Jann, the
Abshum of the faith, the shadow of God upon
earth for whom may our souls be a sacri-
-fice, and whose rule and dominion may
God eternize.

Since this servant of the exalted State, in
the path of obedience and duty, in the stage of
loyalty has been firm in belief and sound in
principle, and has represented his wishes to the
earth under the feet of the exalted Govt and
they have caused the same to be submitted to
the blessed earth under the Royal feet & the
favors of his most exalted and most sacred
Majesty, the shadow of God upon earth,
have enveloped the condition of this servant
and have honored me by the issuing of a
mandate, replendent as the sun and obeyed
by the universe, and further have likewise
deigned to glorify me by the donation of a
jewelled



jewelled sword, have also sent to my brother
Ali son of Khalifa, together with the issuing
of a mandate, a sword mounted in gold, in
the charge of the exalted in rank, Mirza Mahdi,
a clerk for Foreign affairs.

The commands that on the part of the
Government of the victorious State, in
accordance with the exalted Royal decree,
were (entrusted) to the said exalted personage,
have been communicated to me, & the matters
also which this servant fully manifested
to the said exalted personage to be by him
submitted the earth under the blessed feet (are)

It is more self-evident than the sun,
that the islands of Bahrein from the days
of preceding sovereigns until this moment
have been of the land of the dominions of the
exalted State, and also that the Shaykhs
and inhabitants of that place were always under
the protection of the exalted State prosperously
occupied in serving the exalted State. For

Some

Yusuf



(47)

Some little while past when a failure of duty was manifested on the
part of our servants, it arose from a want of the attention of the exalted
State to these parts. But since the favor of the exalted Gov^t has been mani-
fested towards us and since they have deigned to commission the exalted
Mirza Mahedi to make representations and to enquire about our
circumstances, I and my brother the Shaykh the son of the Khalifa
and the whole of the house of Khalifa, and the inhabitants
of Bahraya are of the servants, subjects of the exalted State and are
ready to perform service and to manifest loyalty towards the exalted
State, and Bahraya is a part of the land of the possessions of the
exalted State and also in respect of the fiscal levies of future years
for Bahraya and other services, I have fixed a sum and the
settlement thereof and have delivered the bond (Danda) thereof
to the exalted Mirza Mahedi from the commencement of
the present (Fatah) year of the Moslem, which is the 20th of
Shadad, and we henceforward every year will transmit
the sum to the public treasury.

The standard of the Lion and sun too, the ensign of the
exalted State is set up over our house.

Now that the said exalted personage is returning we
have an extreme confusion and exceeding humility sent
with him two two year colts, the father of which are of the
Shadman (?) and the mother of the Vaghla (?) breed,
the most noble races of Arabian horses.

It is begged of the multitude of the royal graces and favors
that the eyes may be closed to the worthlessness thereof, and
that I may be honored by their acceptance.

The exalted Mirza Mahedi wishes that this servant
bead



had the wish to procure some objects worthy of the (royal) presence;
but by reason of its being the end of the season that was not possible—
He vowed he will at a future time procure some things worthy
of the Royal presence and transmit them. The most sacred
and most exalted commands shall be obeyed.

Submitted on the 20th Thammazir 1276 (12th April 1869)

Translated by me

Signed J. W. Redhouse.

London 16th April 1869.

Translation of a letter addressed by Sherif Mahomed the son
of Mahdi to H. H. H. the Sultanat.

Your Excellency with a Kashmiri shawl as a gift was
delivered by the Hon^{ble} Mirza Mahdi. I was fully acquainted
with all the messages trusted to him and all the necessary replies
were therefore satisfactorily given.

We have conceived that the isles of the Bahrein are the part
of the Persian territory and are the inhabitants with the
Shi'ites and thus are the loyal subjects of H. H. to whom
I have already had the honor of addressing a petitionary letter,
which will be presented by the Hon^{ble} Mirza Mahdi.

A proposal was also made by the Hon^{ble} Mirza
Mahdi concerning the pilgrimage of the Hedjaye through
the desert of Najd, that an arrangement should be made
with the Imam Faissul Khan the Faoul for the managing
of the journey, being a faithful and sincere servant of the
Govt, I take the liberty of stating that it would not be
advisable to make any arrangement with the said Imam, as he is not a man
of

Signature



48
of faith, and there is no honesty in his
doing if he ever happen to promise any
thing, and moreover the Arabs of these Countries
are not in friendly terms with the said Imam,
as I intend to make a journey myself towards
Kowsit and the tribes of the Arabs if H. H.
thinks that the Government of H. I. M. would
deem it expedient to appoint me the head and
ruler of the Hadjaze during the pilgrimage,
I shall take on myself to protect and conduct
them safely as far as to Mecca and back to
Sauda Boshire, provided that the Govt of
H. I. M. would honor me with a Ferman of
authorization on the subject.

I send with Mirza Mahdi
one of the noblest of the Arabian heroes and
hope that H. H. will be pleased to accept this
invaluable present from me and excuse me
for the liberty I take.

I have &c
Signed Shair Mahomed Akbar
17th Ranyan 1276
Translation



Translation of a Petition addressed to
H. I. M. the Shah of Persia by Shah Mahomed
the son of Akhalif.

I am an obedient and faithful
servant of the Government of H. I. M. to whom
I always used to apply for assistance and help
in any matter of my affairs, and as H. I. M.
was graciously pleased to bestow upon me as well as
my brother a Firman of distinction and a sword
studded with precious stones, which were sent
by the Noble Mirza Akhdi the Chief writer
of the Foreign Office, I most humbly beg leave
to say that all the Messages trusted to Mirza
Akhdi by the Government of your H. I. M. were
delivered to me and to which I immediately
answered, as it will also be known to your H. I. M.

It is quite evident that the
Isles of the Persian Gulf were from the time
of the ancient Kings up to the present
moment in the possession of the Persian
Government and their inhabitants and
the Sherifs were ruled and governed
according



49
according to the administration of their
Couriers, however the slight neglect which
was lately shown on our part towards your
S. M's Government was because that they had
not for a while superintended & protected
us, but as now the Government of your S. M.
has intended by sending over Mirza Mehdi
to enquire into and manage the affairs here.
I with my brother and all the inhabitants
feel quite ready to declare at once that we
are most willing to tender any services
required from us towards your Majesty's
Government, being already aware that the
Bahrein (Persian Gulf) is the part of Persia.

I have also arranged the taxes
and the rates to be annually paid to y. M.
Treasury for the future and all the necessary
instructions and the agreements thereupon
are sent to y. M's presence by that Hon'ble
dignitary. I will therefore hasten to hoist
the flag on my residence bearing the
'Lion and the Sun' which are the signs
of the Persian Standard.

S



I humbly take the liberty of
sending to y. S. M. two dolls of pure
Arab origin by the Mothers named
Sheeman and Kihila (they are two years
old and very promising) which I earnestly
hope that y. S. M. will be graciously
pleased to honor me by accepting these
worthless presents. I intended to send some
more valuable presents but unfortunately
being the end of the season Mirza Mehdi
knows that I could not acquire anything
worthy of y. M's presence and I trust I shall
be excused for this liberty.

Shave &c

20th Ramzan 1276

India Office
21st April 1869.

Sir,
With reference to previous cor-
respondence ending with your letter of the
16th instant (with enclosures) on the
subject of the political status

Ch. G.



of the Chief of Bahrein and his
relations with the Shah of Persia,
I am directed by the Duke of
Cargyle to acquaint you that he has
taken the subject into his deliberate
consideration, and I am to state
to you, for the information of Lord
Clarendon, His Grace's views, as
follow. The British Government
have hitherto carefully abstained
from recognizing either directly
or indirectly, the validity of the claim,
on several occasions, advanced by
Persia, to the right of Sovereignty
over the island of Bahrein, as is
apparent on the records of the
Foreign Office and especially in
the despatches noted in the margin.

* Lord. Aberdeen to Coll. Sheil 1838
of 23^d September 1826.
Lord. G. to F. O. 1815 } moreover the Sheikh
of 17th February 1845. } of Bahrein, in
Sir. H. Rawlinson to F. O. 1847 } his capacity of an
of 10th May 1860. } independent Chief
has contracted obligations towards
the British Government for the
suppression of war, piracy, and
the Slave Trade which are indis-
pensable to the success of our
measures of Maritime Police, and
which the Local Governor of
Bahrein



Bahrain who is possessed of considerable Naval resources, is alone competent to secure the fulfilment. And the Duke of Argyll is of opinion that not only your interests in the Persian Gulf, but those also of the several Maritime Chiefs on those waters, require the maintenance of this principle of action. To substitute the distant and ineffectual authority of Persia for the direct responsibility of the Local Chief to the power which controls the Maritime Police of the Gulf would be fatal to the policy which has so long and advantageously been maintained in that part of the world.

But, although the Duke of Argyll is of opinion, that this line of policy cannot now be abandoned, without very serious risk of endangering the peace of the Gulf, he is not blind to the expediency of avoiding all causes of unnecessary irritation at the Court of Teheran, and he is willing, therefore, if Lord

Clarendon



(51)
C. Carraden should desire it, as
a matter of Courtesy to the
Persian Government to issue
instructions to the Government
of India to direct the Resident
in the Persian Gulf (whenever
he may on any future occasion,
under orders from India, be about to
call the Chief of Bahrein to account
for any breach of his engagements
to the British Government) to notify
the fact to the British Minister
at Teheran, for the information of
the Shah's Government. Instances
however, may arise, in which
the British Resident in the Gulf
may be called upon, in the general
interests of peace and order, to
act promptly on his own respon-
sibility, until the Duke of Argyll
is not willing, in such cases,
he waive what he considers as
not only a right pertaining to,
but a duty incumbent upon,
the British Government.

I am &c.

Signed W. E. Grant Duff

Note. There was a P.T. to the
above letter forwarding papers
received from India.

Right Honble

W. E. Grant Duff

Foreign Office.

Foreign



Foreign Office,
26th April 1869.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 21st instant, I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon to transmit to you a copy of the draft of a letter on the subject of Bahrain which H. L. proposes to address to the Persian Charge d' Affaires at this Court, and I am to request that in laying the same before the Duke of Argyll, you will inform Lord Clarendon whether it meets with his concurrence. The original enclosures in your letter are herewith returned.

I have &c.

Sigff E. Hammond.

F. O. April 1869

D^{ty} General Hadji Molsai Khan
Sir,

With reference to my
note

W. G.



note of the 16th instant, in which I acknow-
-ledged the receipt of your note of the
13th, enclosing two letters from the Sheikh
of Bahrein, I have now the honor to
state to you that I have considered
in communication with H. His Secy of
State for India, the whole question of
the position of the Sheikh of Bahrein, &
I avail myself of this opportunity to
make known to you the views of H. His
Govt. on the subject.

It is the fact, as yourself &
the Govt. of the Shah are undoubtedly
aware, that the Sheikhs of Bahrein
have at different periods entered directly
into engagements with the British
Govt., & that I beg to assure you that
the British Govt. hold the Sheikh to
these engagements solely for the pur-
poses of preventing piracy & Slave Trade,
& of maintaining the police of the Gulf.
If the Persian Govt. are prepared to
keep a sufficient force in the Gulf for
these purposes, this country would be
relieved from a troublesome & costly
duty, but if the Shah is not prepared
to undertake these duties H. His Govt.
cannot suppose H. M. would wish
that



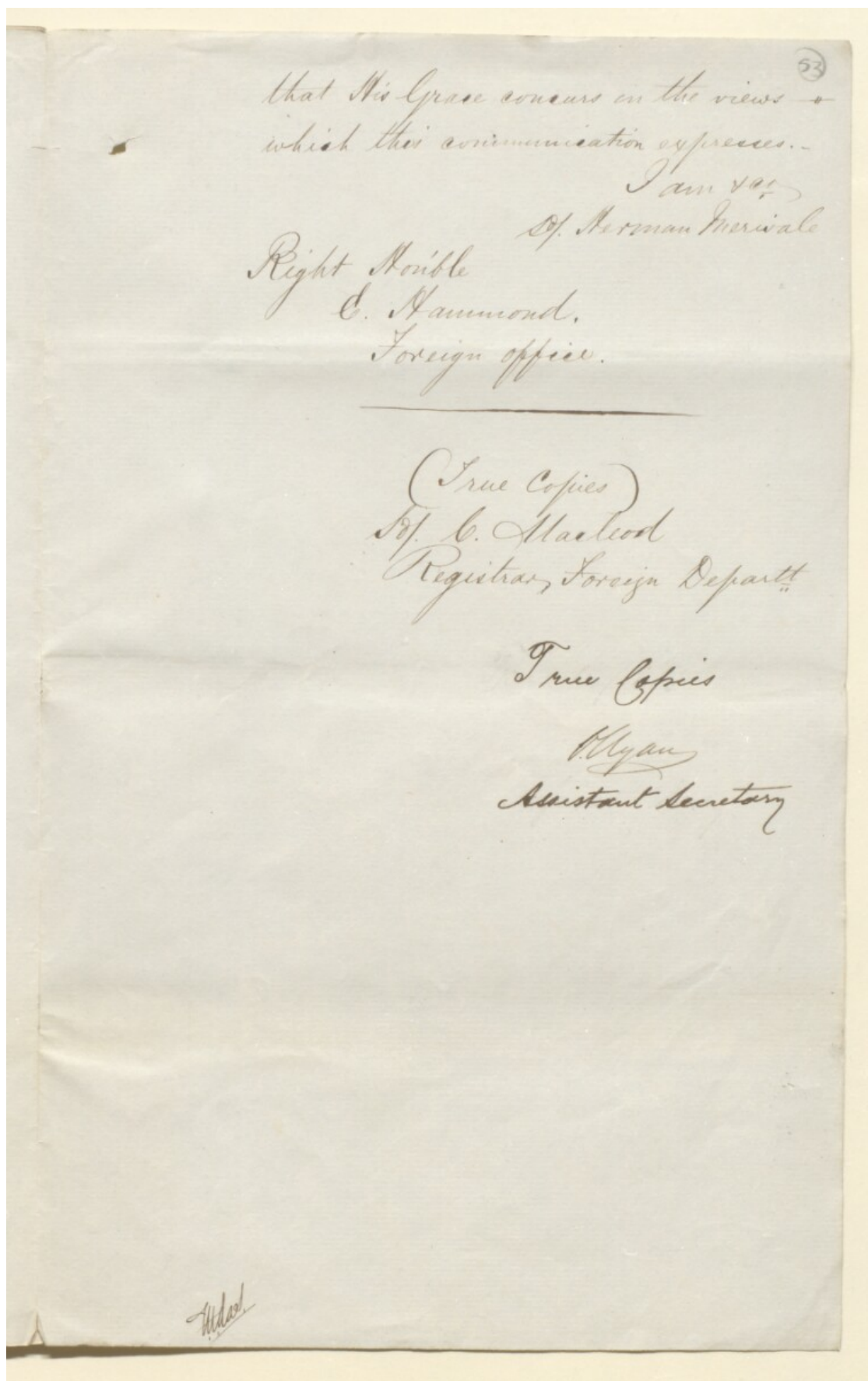
that in these waters disorders & crime
should be encouraged by impunity.

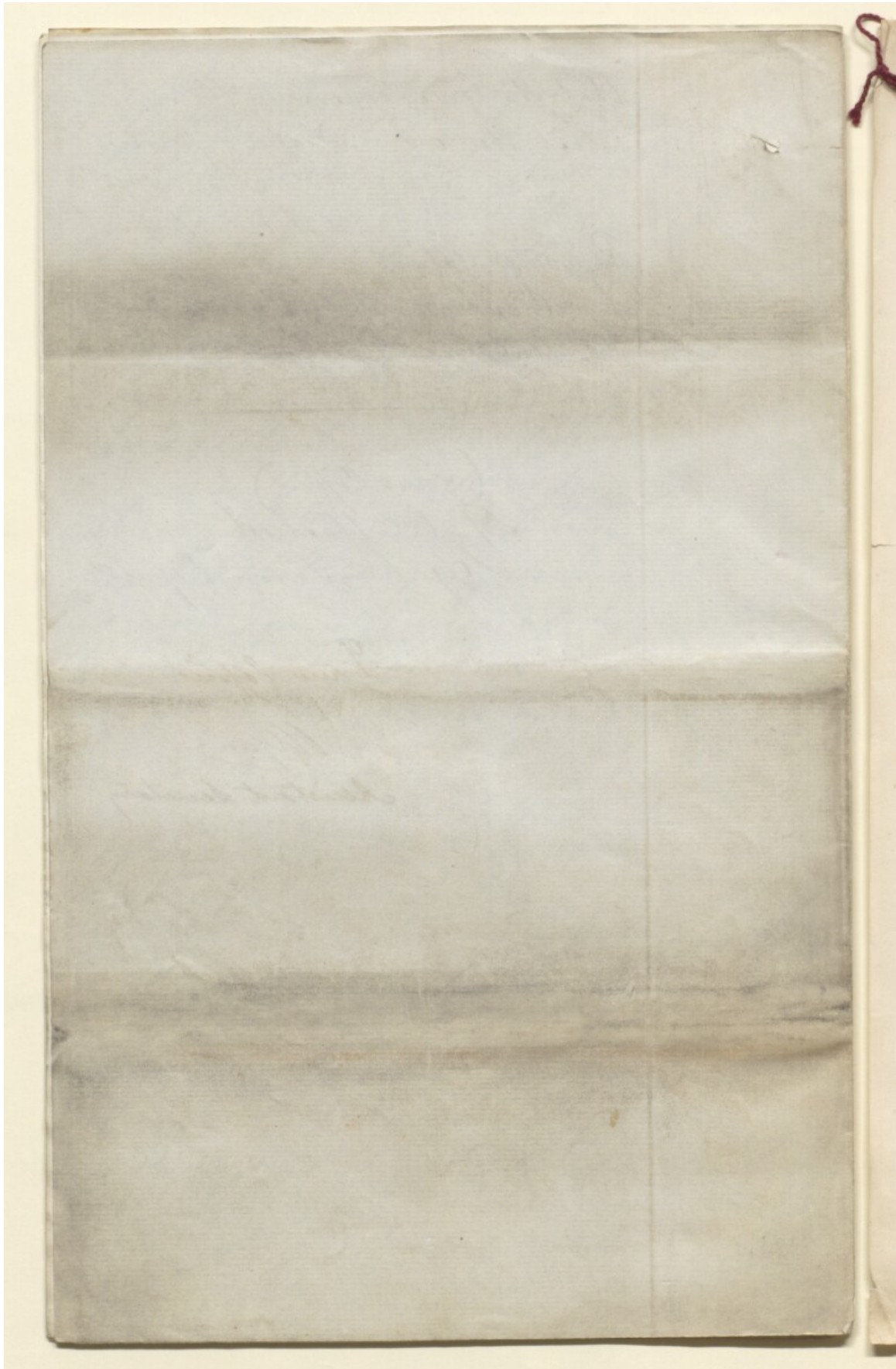
I need scarcely assure you of the
friendly feelings entertained by H.
M^t Govt towards Persia, and ^{things} desire
on all occasions to meet as far as
possible the wishes of the Shah, and
in regard to this question, I have the
hon^r to state to you that whenever
it is practicable to do so, H^t Govt
will cause the Persian Govt to be in-
formed beforehand of any measures
of coercion against himself which
the conduct of the Sheikh of Bahrein
may have rendered necessary.

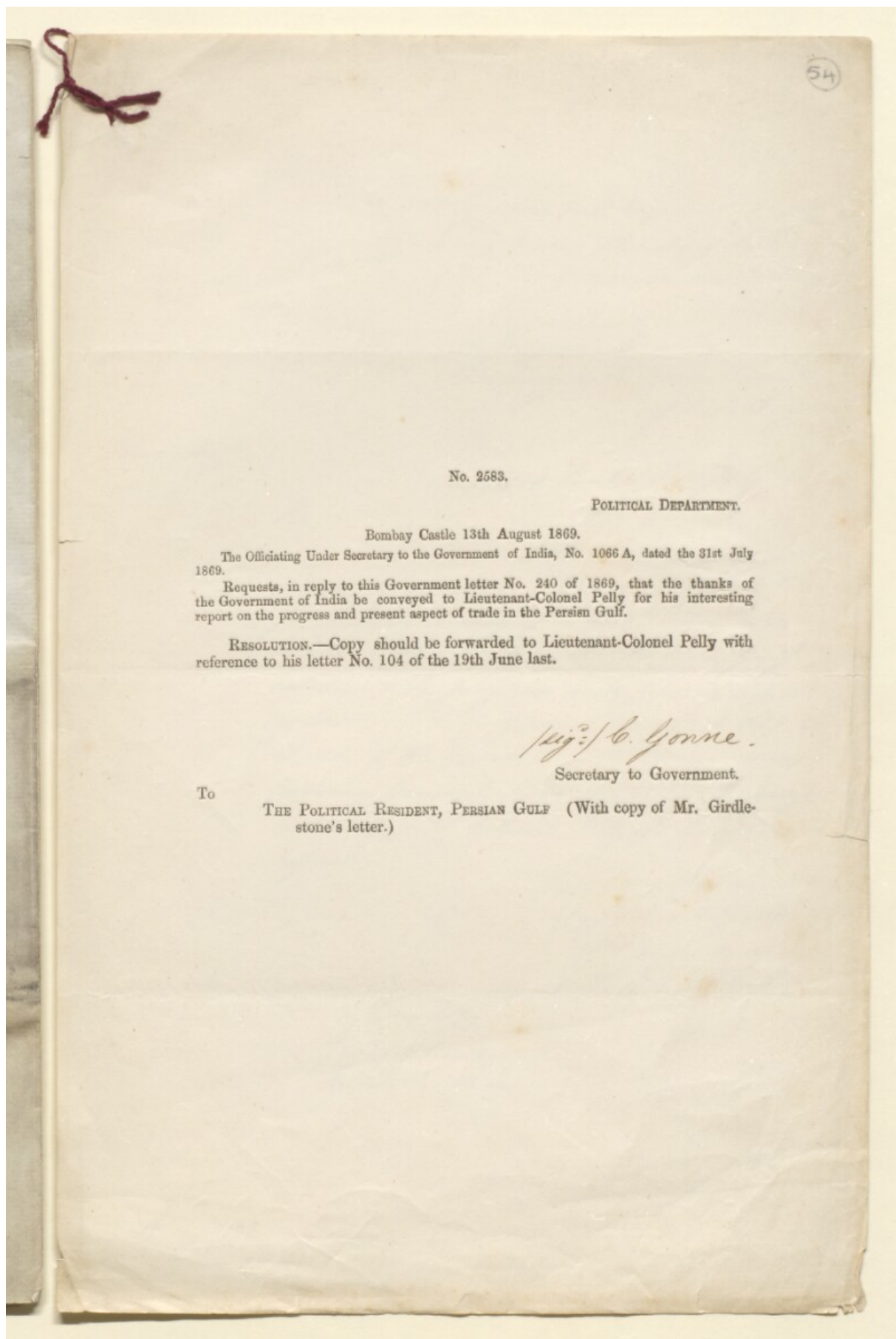
India office
27th April 1869.

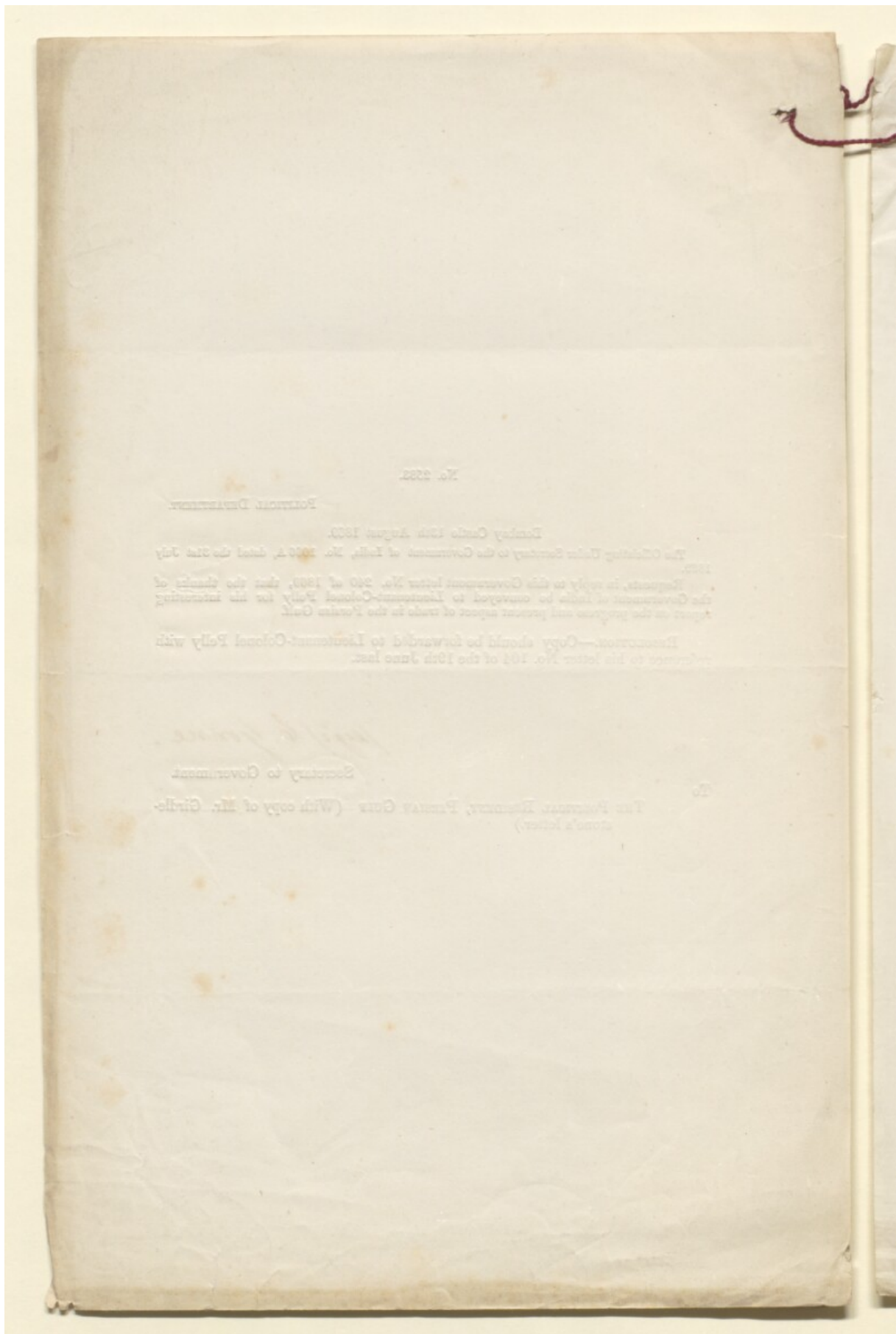
Sir,

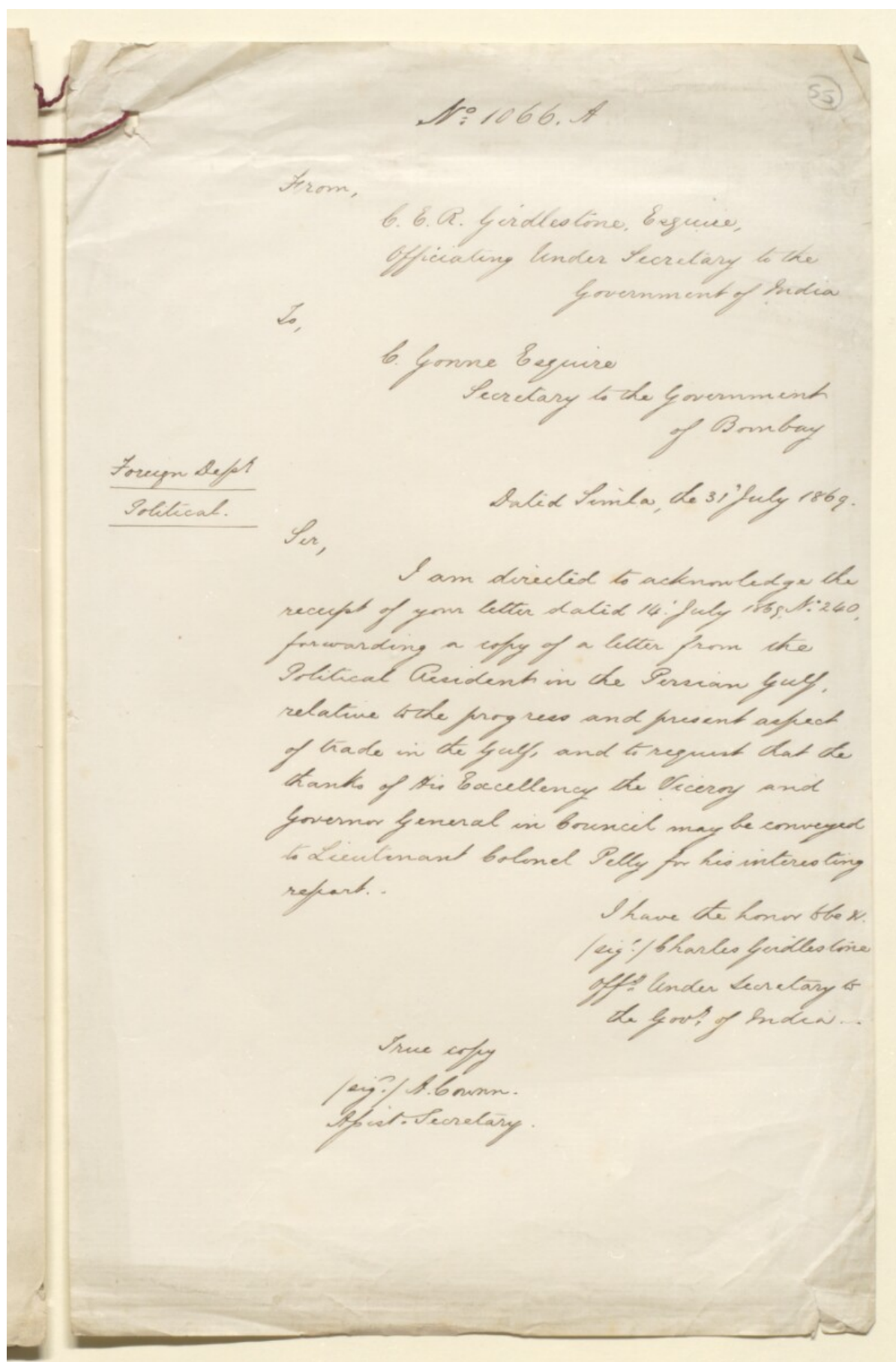
I am directed by the Duke
of Argyll to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of yesterday's date,
inclosing draft of a letter from Lord
Clarendon to the Persian Charge d'
affaires relating to the position of the
Sheikh of Bahrein and I am to inform
you in reply, for H^t Govt's information
that











N^o 1066. A

From,

C. E. R. Girdlestone, Esquire,
Officiating Under Secretary to the
Government of India

To,

C. Gonne Esquire
Secretary to the Government
of Bombay

Foreign Dept
Political.

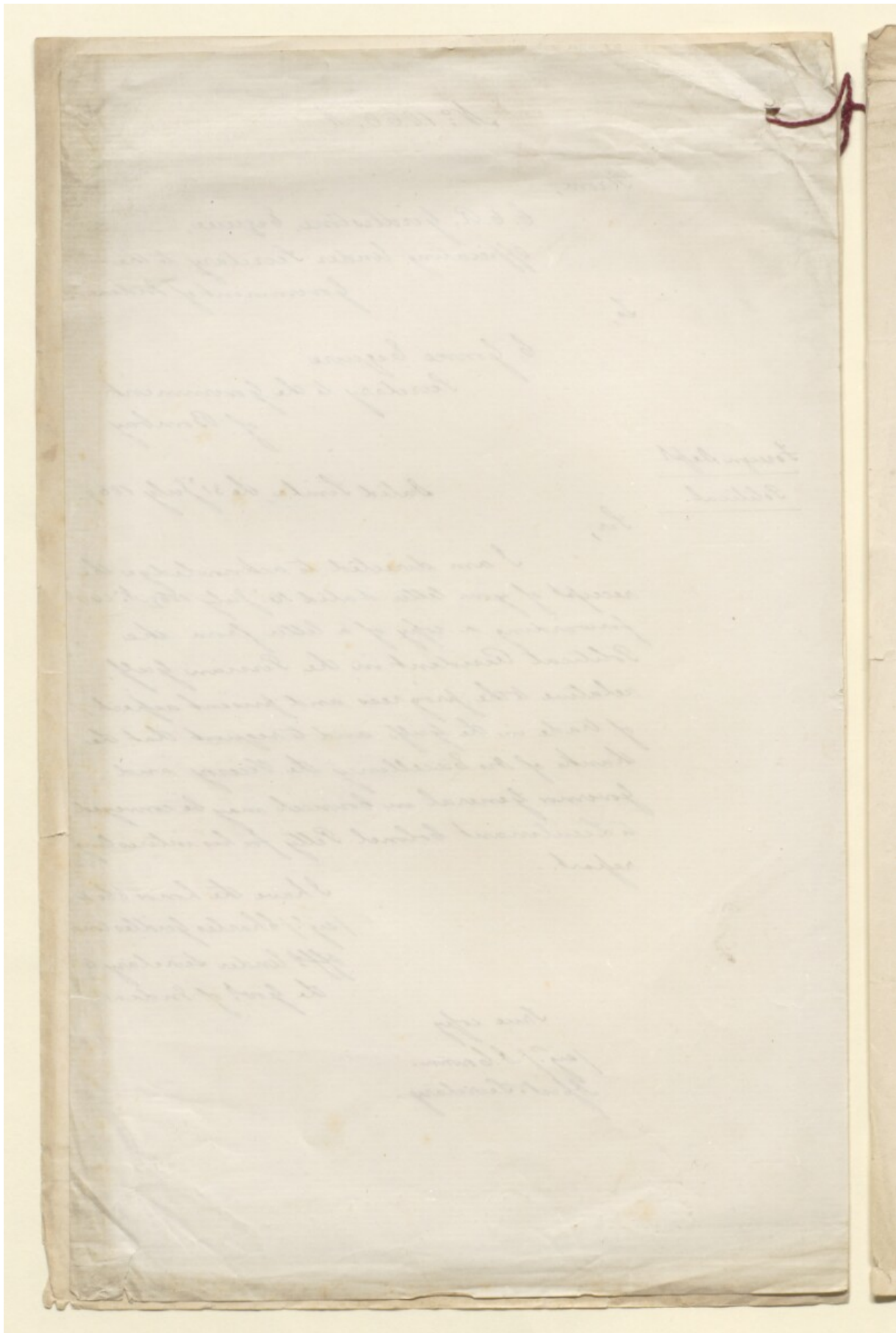
Dated Simla, the 31st July 1869.

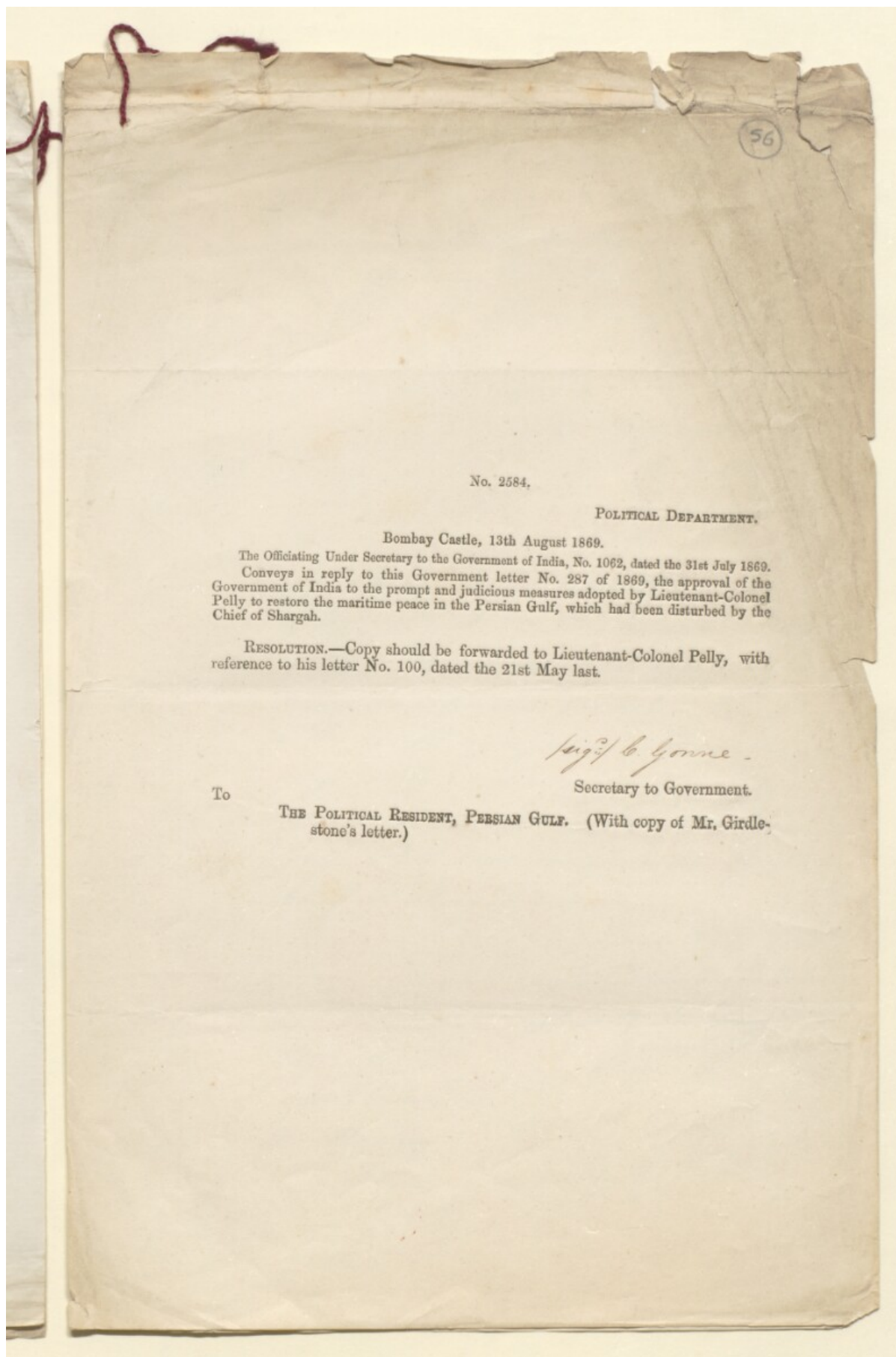
Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 14th July 1869, N^o 260, forwarding a copy of a letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, relative to the progress and present aspect of trade in the Gulf, and to request that the thanks of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council may be conveyed to Lieutenant Colonel Pelly for his interesting report.

I have the honor to be
Yours faithfully
C. E. R. Girdlestone
Off^r Under Secretary to
the Gov^t of India.

True copy
Yours faithfully
S. Gonne.
Asst. Secretary.





No. 2584.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 13th August 1869.

The Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, No. 1062, dated the 31st July 1869.
Conveys in reply to this Government letter No. 287 of 1869, the approval of the
Government of India to the prompt and judicious measures adopted by Lieutenant-Colonel
Pelly to restore the maritime peace in the Persian Gulf, which had been disturbed by the
Chief of Shargah.

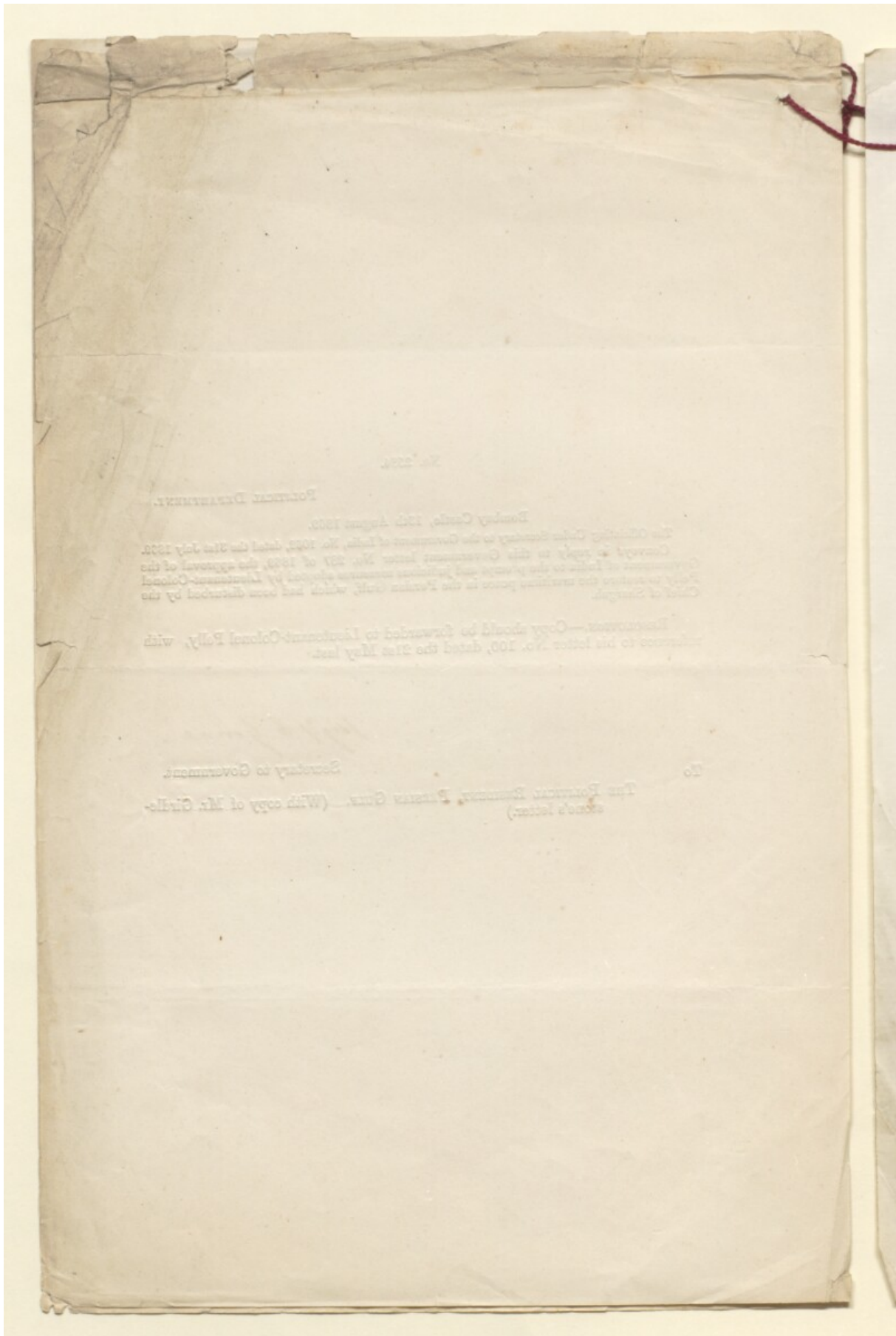
RESOLUTION.—Copy should be forwarded to Lieutenant-Colonel Pelly, with
reference to his letter No. 100, dated the 21st May last.

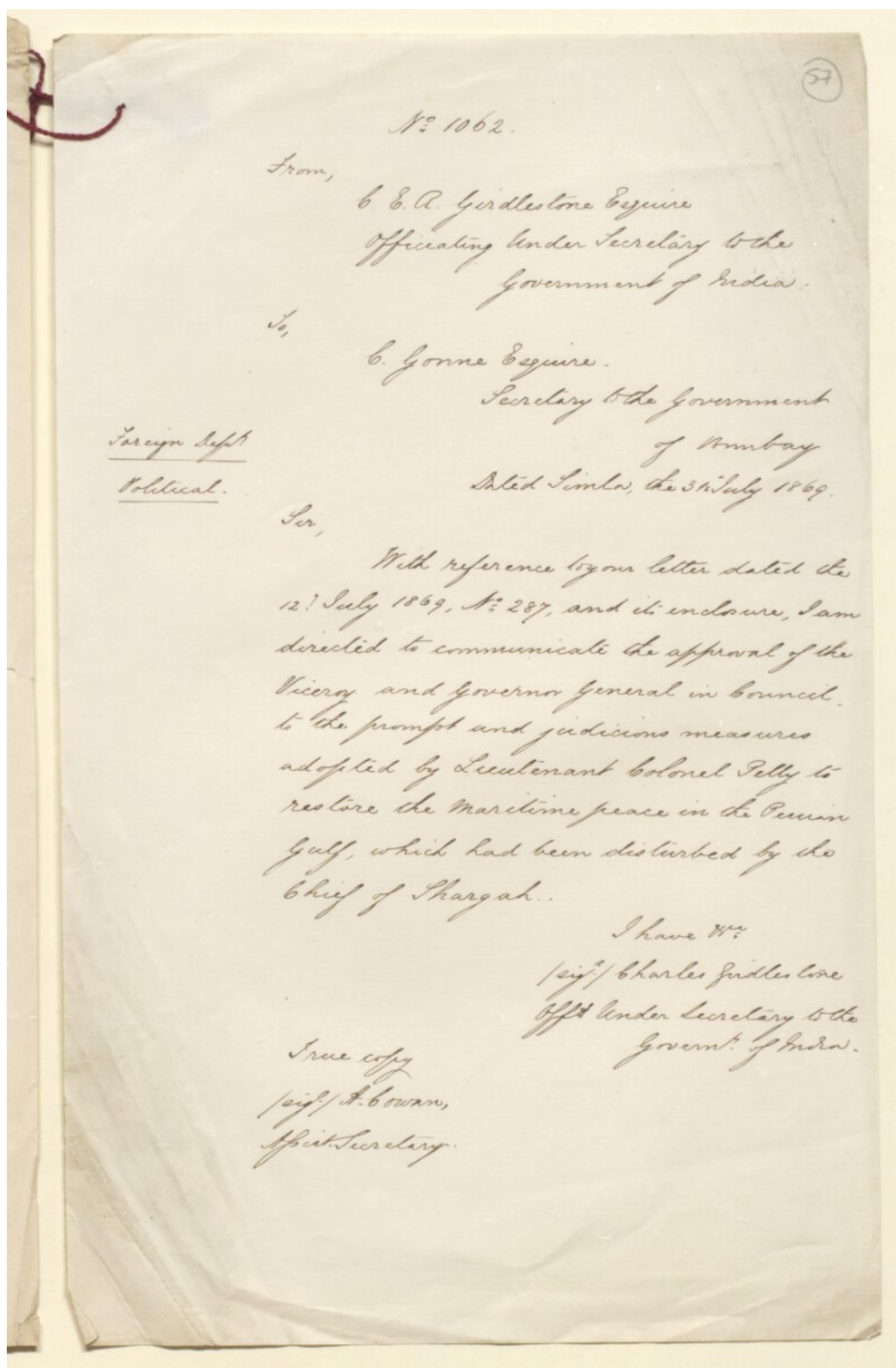
Chas. Gonne

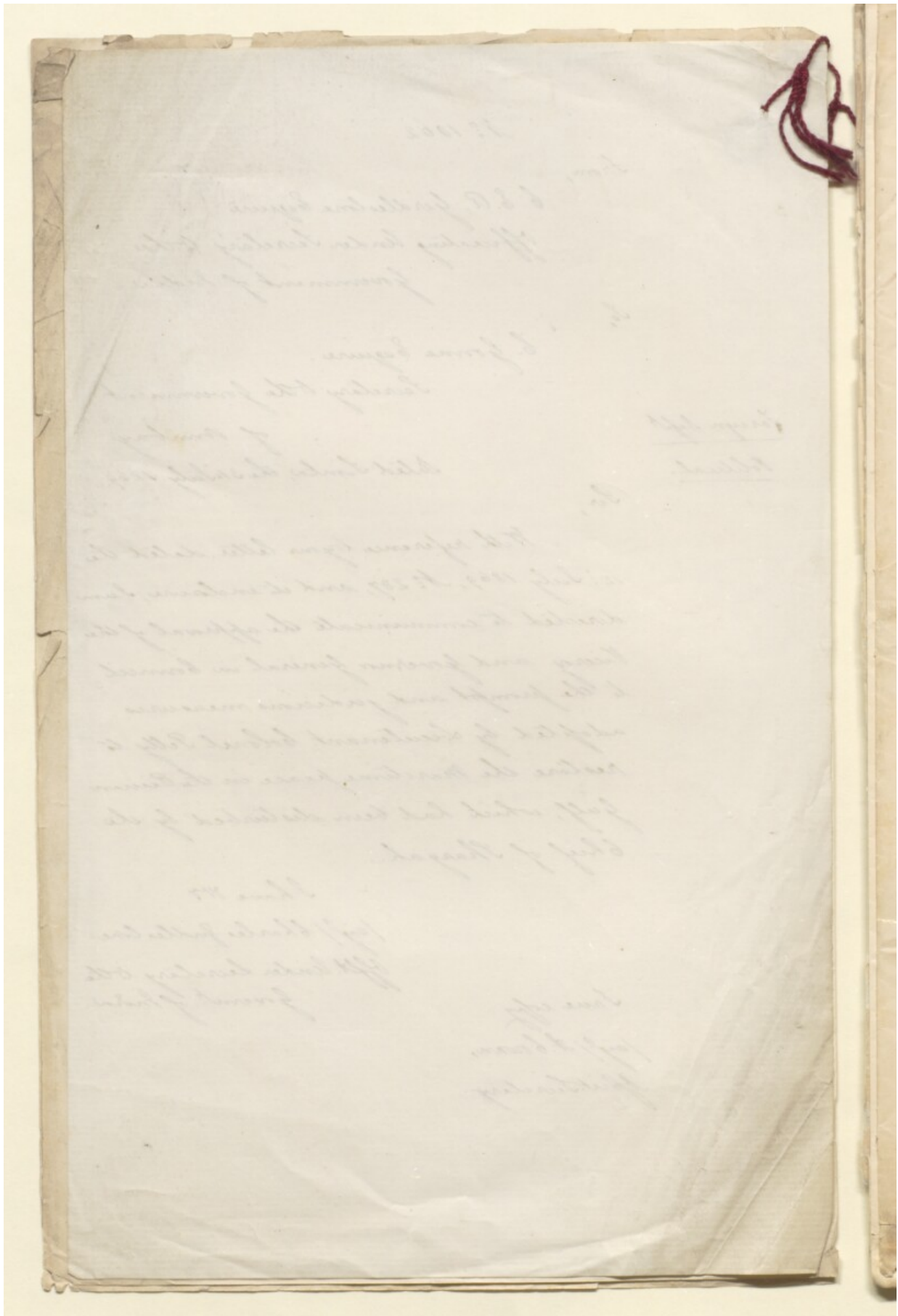
Secretary to Government.

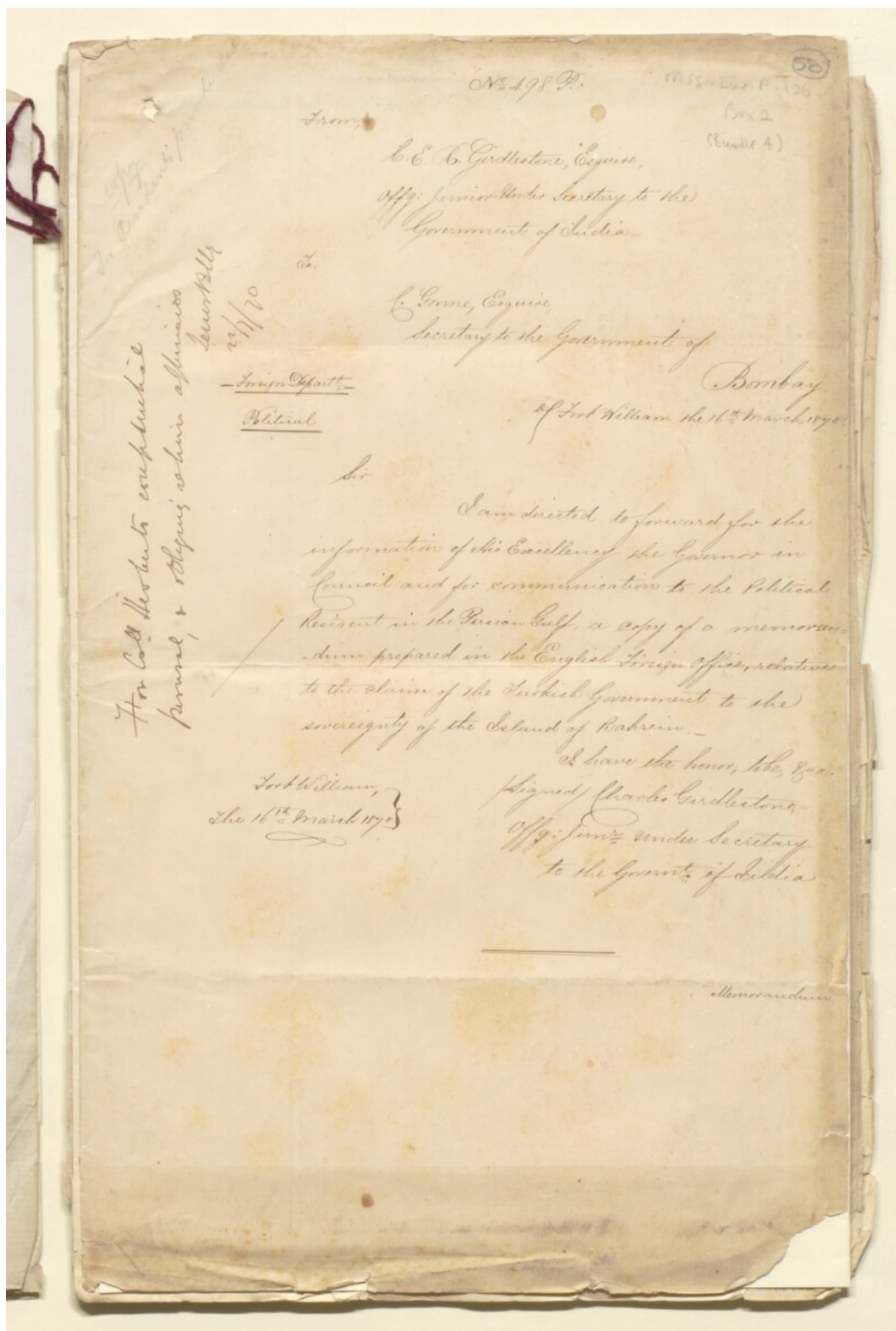
To

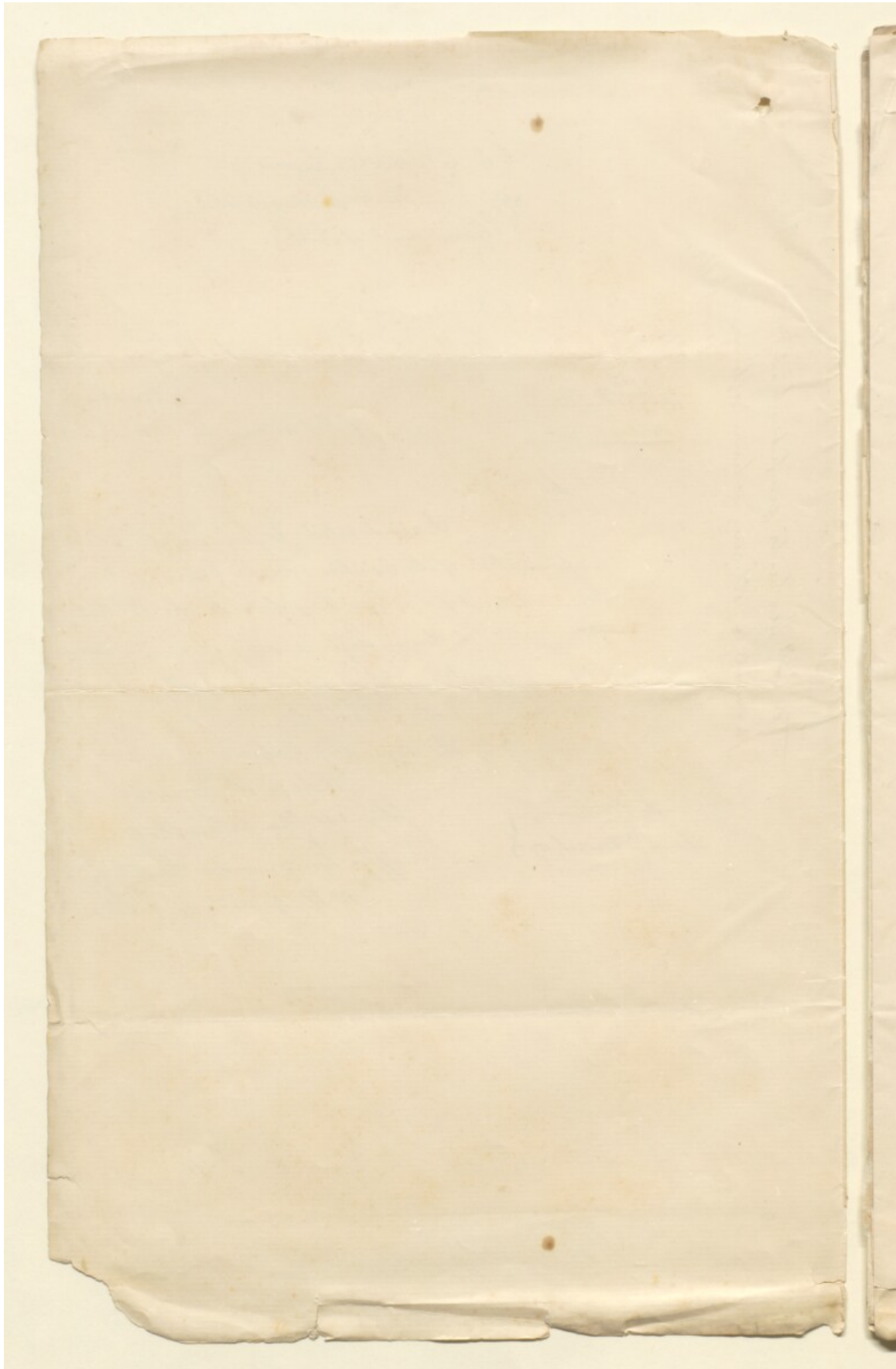
THE POLITICAL RESIDENT, PERSIAN GULF. (With copy of Mr. Girdle-
stone's letter.)

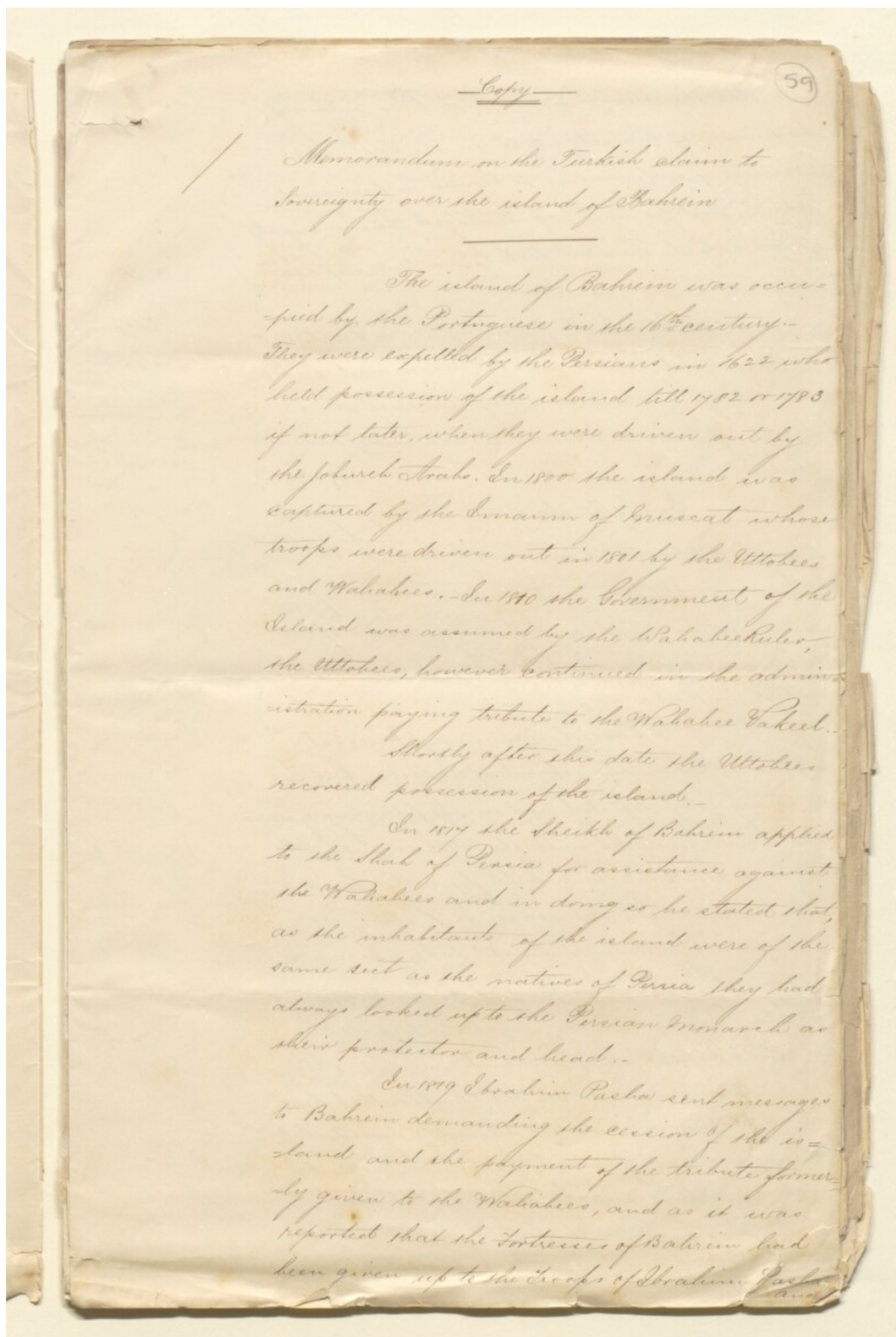












Copy

59

*Memorandum on the Turkish claim to
sovereignty over the island of Bahrein*

The island of Bahrein was occupied by the Portuguese in the 16th century. They were expelled by the Persians in 1622 who held possession of the island till 1782 or 1793 if not later, when they were driven out by the Joluch Arabs. In 1800 the island was captured by the Imam of Muscat whose troops were driven out in 1801 by the Ottomans and Wahabees. In 1810 the Government of the Island was assumed by the Wahabee Ruler, the Ottomans, however continued in the administration paying tribute to the Wahabee Fakir.

Shortly after this date the Ottomans recovered possession of the island.

In 1814 the Sheikh of Bahrein applied to the Shah of Persia for assistance against the Wahabees and in doing so he stated that, as the inhabitants of the island were of the same sect as the natives of Persia they had always looked up to the Persian Monarch as their protector and head.

In 1819 Ibrahim Pasha sent messages to Bahrein demanding the cession of the island and the payment of the tribute formerly given to the Wahabees, and as it was reported that the fortresses of Bahrein had been given up to the troops of Ibrahim Pasha



and that the island was subject to his authority, the Imam of Muscat urged on the Shah the necessity of endeavouring to recover a possession which "had for ages acknowledged the sovereignty of Persia. But the Shah took no active steps in the matter. -

On the 8th of January 1820, a Treaty was concluded between Great Britain and certain Arab Chiefs in the Persian Gulf, to which the Sheikh of Bahrein acceded as an independent chief. -

In 1821/22 the Bahrein Chief agreed to pay a certain fixed annual tribute to the Imam of Muscat in return for the release of certain Uttober Chiefs, and for the surrender of the vessels and property which had been put under an embargo on their way from India. -

In 1828 the Imam of Muscat again attacked the island of Bahrein, but he was signally defeated, and in the following year Peace was concluded with the Uttobers, when it was agreed that the tribute formerly paid to the Imam should cease and that no interference whatever should take place in each others concerns. In 1830 the Wababers called upon the Sheikh of Bahrein to pay the annual tribute, other demands were at the same time made on the Sheikh Abdullah by the Wababers when it was ultimately agreed that the supremacy of a certain Amier Tooker bin Sawood should be acknowledged at Bahrein, and that the tribute should be paid by the Uttobers, in return for which protection was promised.



promised them. In 1833 fresh quarrels arose when the Sheikh of Bahrein refused allegiance to the Wahabees. Intrigues and confusion continued in consequence to increase in the island for the next few years, until at length in 1839 the Commander of the Egyptian forces in the neighbourhood announced to the British Resident in the Persian Gulf his intention of attacking and reducing Bahrein as formerly part of Nedjd, over which he stated the Viceroy of Egypt was Lord. —

Colonel Shiel. {
2242, 1845. {

India office 3rd {
Aug 1849 Persia. {
2242, 1849 Turkey {
Colonel Campbell {
24 of 1849. {

The Agent of the Egyptian Government was, however, informed that the British Government could not admit any claim of the Pacha upon Bahrein. —

Colonel Shiel {
26, 1843. {

In 1843, the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs informed Colonel Shiel that Bahrein belonged by Right to Persia, and expressed his determination to regain possession of the island when other affairs of importance were disposed of; and in a letter which he addressed to the Government of Persia about this time he alluded to Bahrein as "one of the islands of Fars". — The British Resident in the Persian Gulf was however instructed by the Government of India to resist by force any attempts of the Persian Government to establish troops on the Island of Bahrein. —

Colonel Shiel was at the same time informed that unless Persia could shew that she had a clear and indisputable right to the sovereignty of Bahrein, that she had exercised it without interruption under



the dynasty of the Hojir family; and that conse-
quently her present policy was directed to the
maintenance of her lawful claims, and not
to the assertion of a pretension not founded
in law, she would be prepared to encounter
in any scheme of the kind the active opposition
of the British Government of India. -

Upon receipt of this communication } Colonel Skel
the Persian Minister replied that he would } 69, 29th June 1841.
undertake to prove the right of Persia to the
possession of the island. -

One of the grounds upon which
Persia rested her claim was a Convention con-
cluded in 1822, between Captain Bruce, the Resi-
dent in the Persian Gulf, and the Vizier of the
Prince Governor of Fars, which among other
things admitted the right of Persia to Bahrain,
but Captain Bruce's proceedings were disap-
proved and he was in consequence removed
from his appointment and the convention was
not ratified. -

After carefully considering the
various statements put forward by the Persian
Governor, the British Government declared that
they were unable to recognize as valid the claims
advanced by Persia to the sovereignty of Bahrain. -

Here the question rested for a time. -

On the 8th May 1847, a fresh engage-
ment was entered into between the Chief of
Bahrain and the British Resident in the Persian
Gulf for the suppression of the Slave Trade. Shortly
afterwards it was reported that the Governor of
Bussorah had made certain overtures to the inde-
pendent Chiefs of the Island of Bahrain, and that a
serious



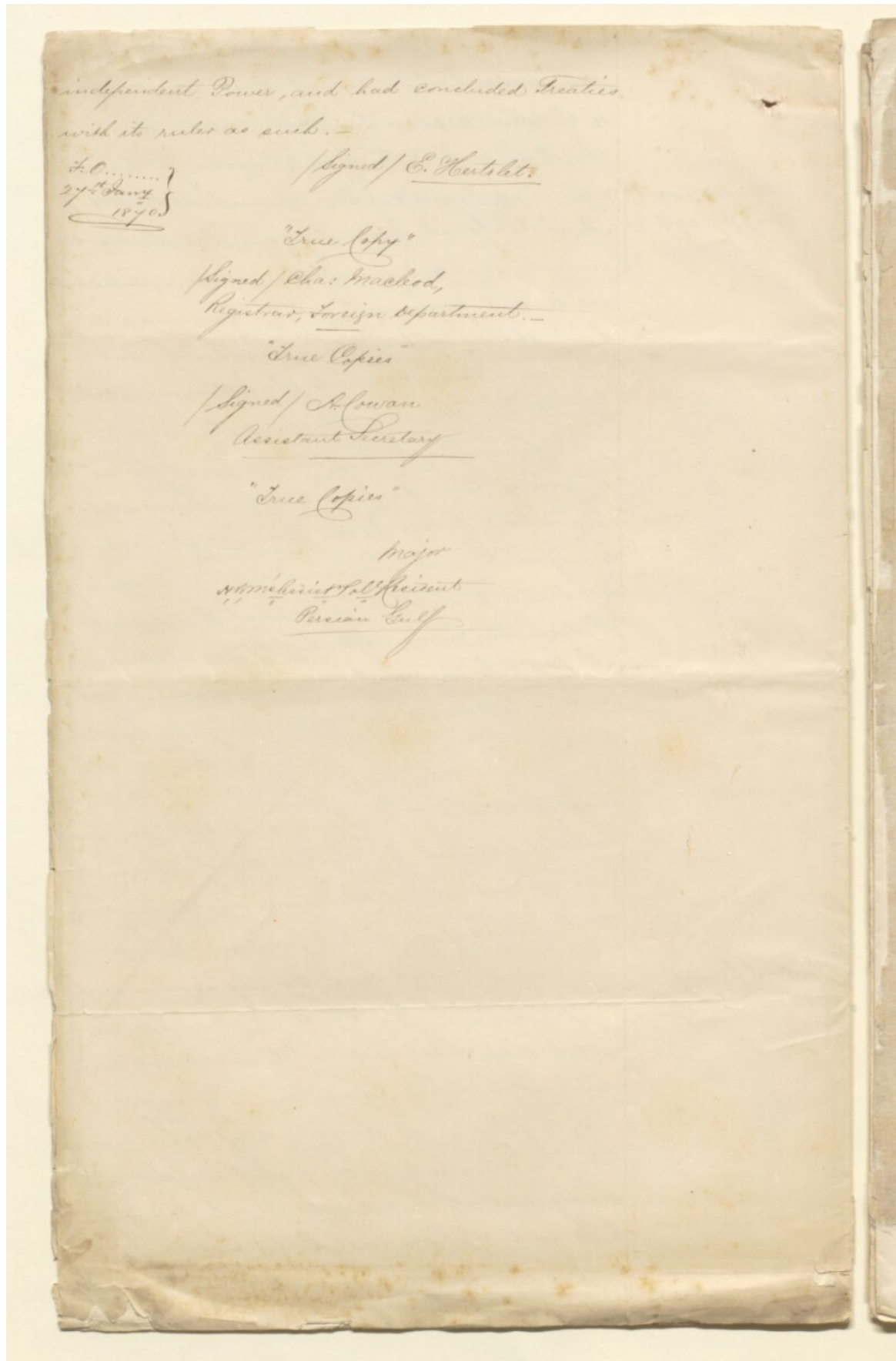
(61)

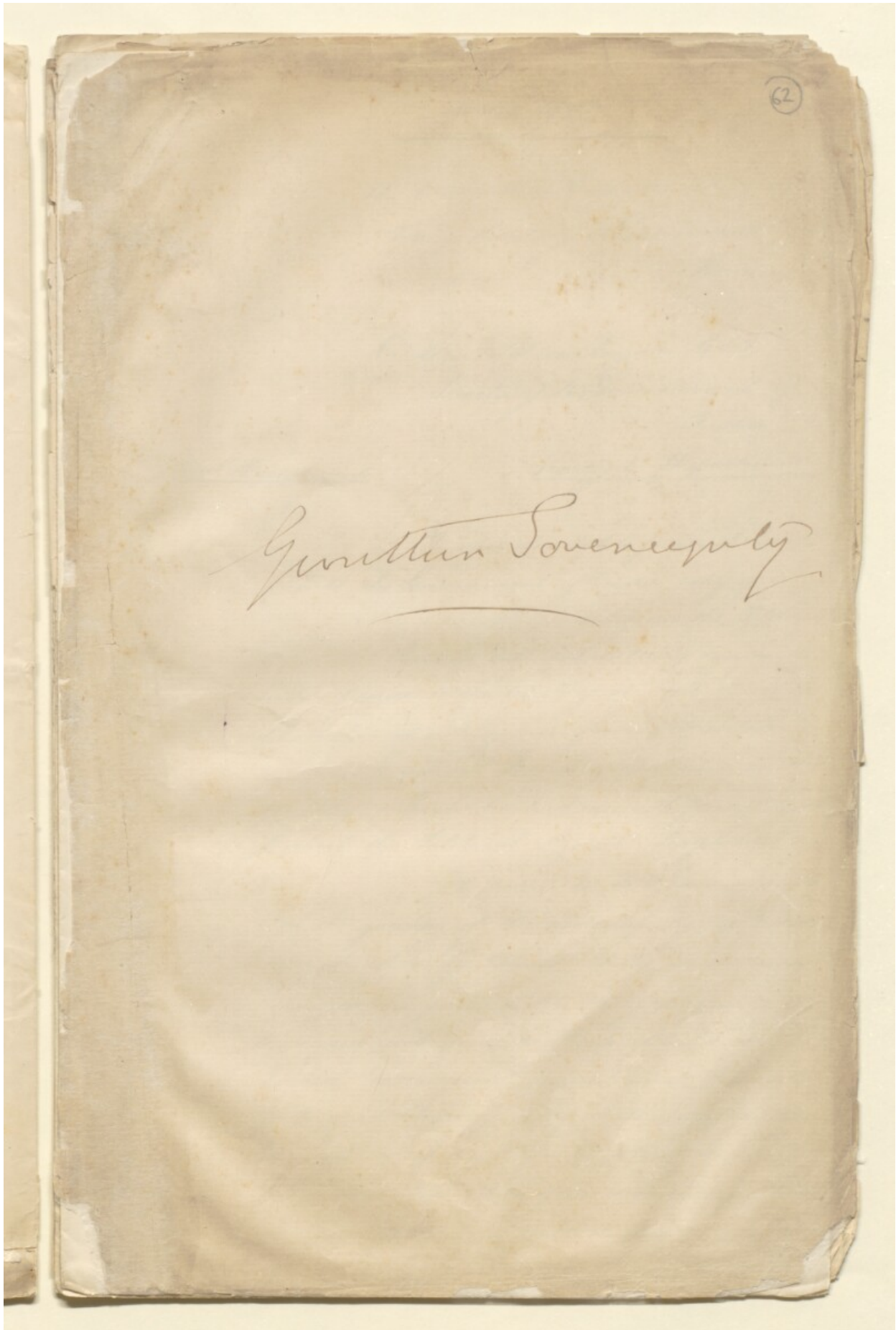
Humboldt 25th
May/47. 25th
June

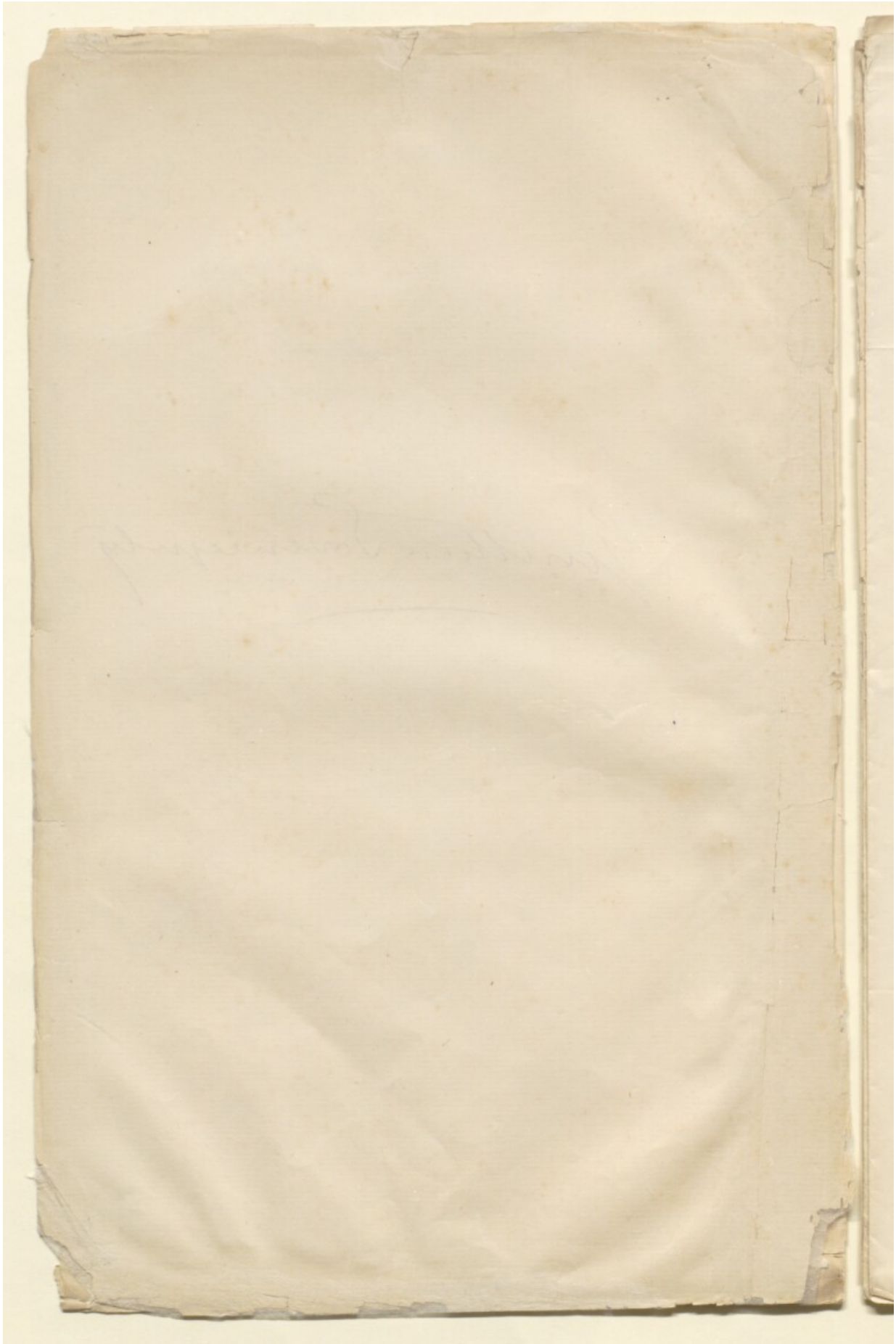
summons had been sent to the Arab Chiefs
of Bahrein to place himself in dependence on
the Porte, but the Turkish Minister for Foreign
Affairs on hearing of this assured the British
Ambassador at Constantinople that there was
not the slightest foundation for the report that
the Turkish Government was endeavouring to
bring that island under its authority, but at
the same time he made the following state-
ment: "The Maritime Chiefs of the Persian Gulf
were formerly officers of the Porte, and for a
length of time paid us tribute. If any steps
have been taken by the Governor of Bussoorah
to negotiate with them and return to their
allegiance to the Porte we cannot disapprove
or disavow him. All that I can state is
that we have neither the intention nor the
means to recover our supremacy by hostile
measures."

The designs however of the
Turkish authority to claim a supremacy not
hitherto exercised by the Ottoman Government
over the island of Bahrein was again brought
to the notice of the British Government.

And Sir J. Fanning was accord-
ingly instructed to state to the Turkish Govern-
ment that H. M. Government could not ac-
knowledge or acquiesce in any arrange-
ment for placing the island of Bahrein un-
der the sovereignty or the protection of the Porte,
seeing that the British Government of India
had had relations with Bahrein as an
independent







⑥3

W. Wedderburn Esquire
Acting Secretary to Government
Bombay

C. M. Aitchison Esquire C.S.I.
Secretary to Government of
India

Foreign Department

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith to the Government of India copy of a letter, No 1026, dated 13th ultimo from the Political Resident Persian Gulf, submitting remarks with reference to the territory of Kutthur in explanation of a telegram for information regarding alleged British interference in the country which he had received from Colonel Herbert, the Political Agent Baghdad.

3.-

3.- It seems to this Government that the question of the sovereignty of Gutter touched upon by Colonel Pelly in the communication forwarded is likely to give rise to considerable complications should the Turkish Government succeed in its present object of establishing a right to interfere in the affairs of Nijd. In para 5 of Colonel Pelly's despatch No. 75 of Nov. it is shown that the arrangement as to the tribute payable by



Guttur to Bahrain "is to be considered not
to affect the independence of Guttur in rela-
tion to Bahrain but is to be considered a
"fixed contribution by Guttur and Bahrain
"combined in view to securing their frontiers
"from molestation by the Naim and Waha-
bi tribes more particularly during the
"harsh diving season."

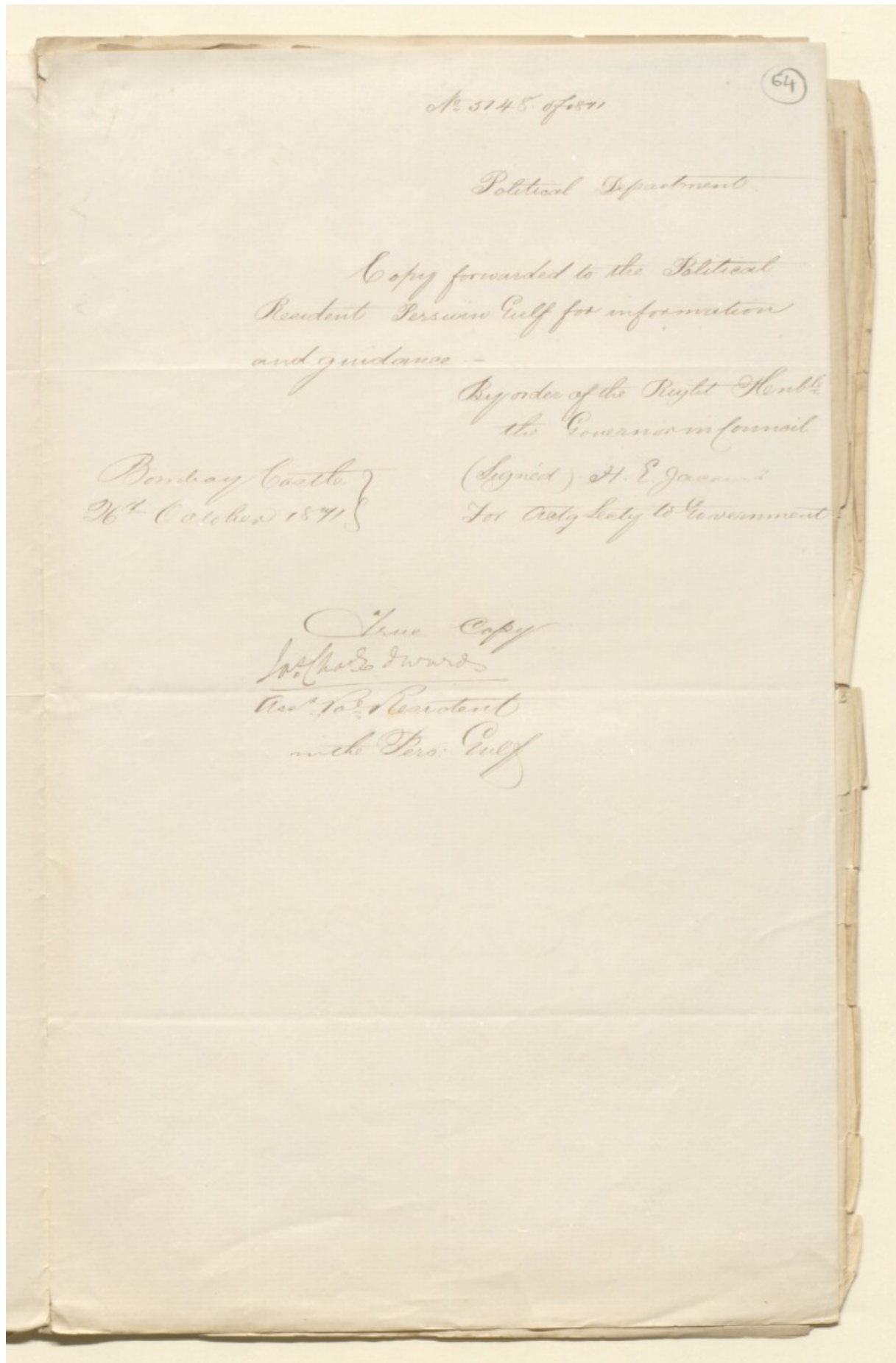
3.- With reference to the view
stated in the first clause of the foregoing
paragraph His Excellency in Council
would suggest for the consideration of the
Government of India whether it would
not be expedient to communicate the
publication as to Guttur to His Majesty's
Foreign Office in case any reference is
made to them by the Turkish Govern-
ment on the subject of that territory.

4.- Meantime, I am to state
Colonel Felly has been requested, with
reference to paras 7 and 9 of his letter to
submit his views as to the question of
sovereignty over the Guttur Country. He
has at the same time been informed that
the proceeding reported by him has been
approved by His Excellency in Council.

Bombay Castle
26th Oct 1871

I have the honour
(Signed) W. Wedderburn
Actg Secretary to Govt

W.



No 3145 of 1871

64

Political Department.

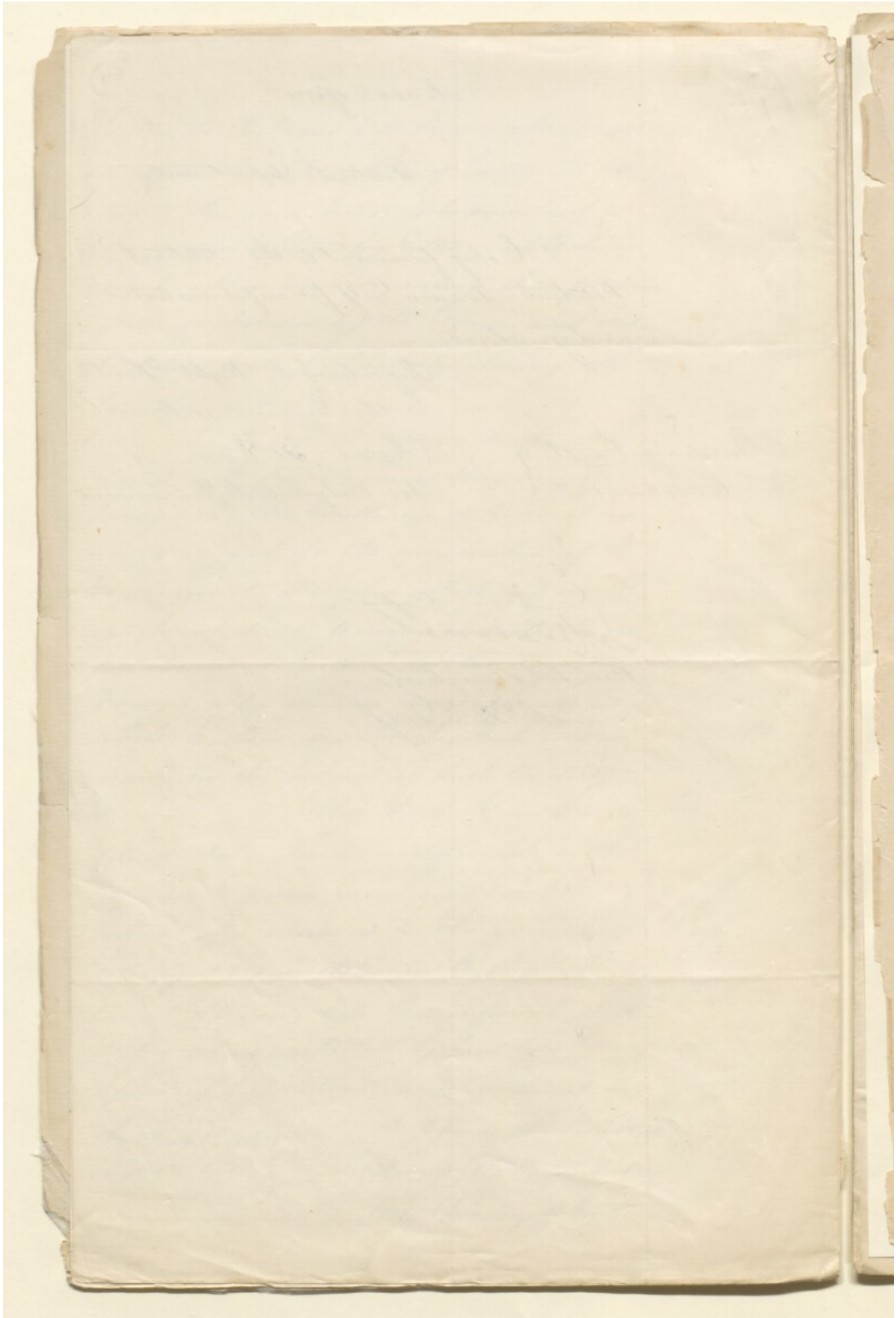
Copy forwarded to the Political
Resident Persian Gulf for information
and guidance -

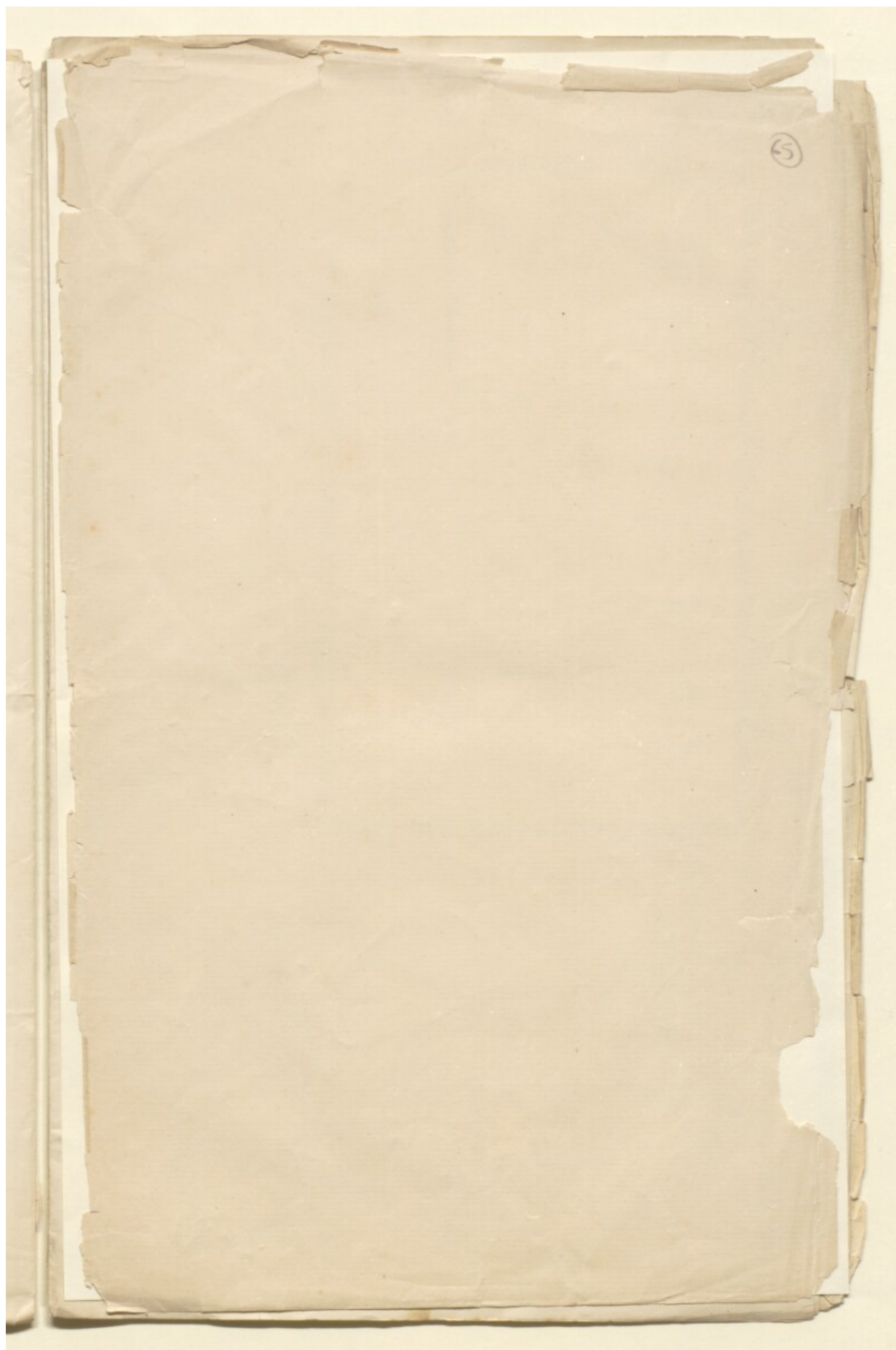
By order of the Right Honble
the Commander in Council

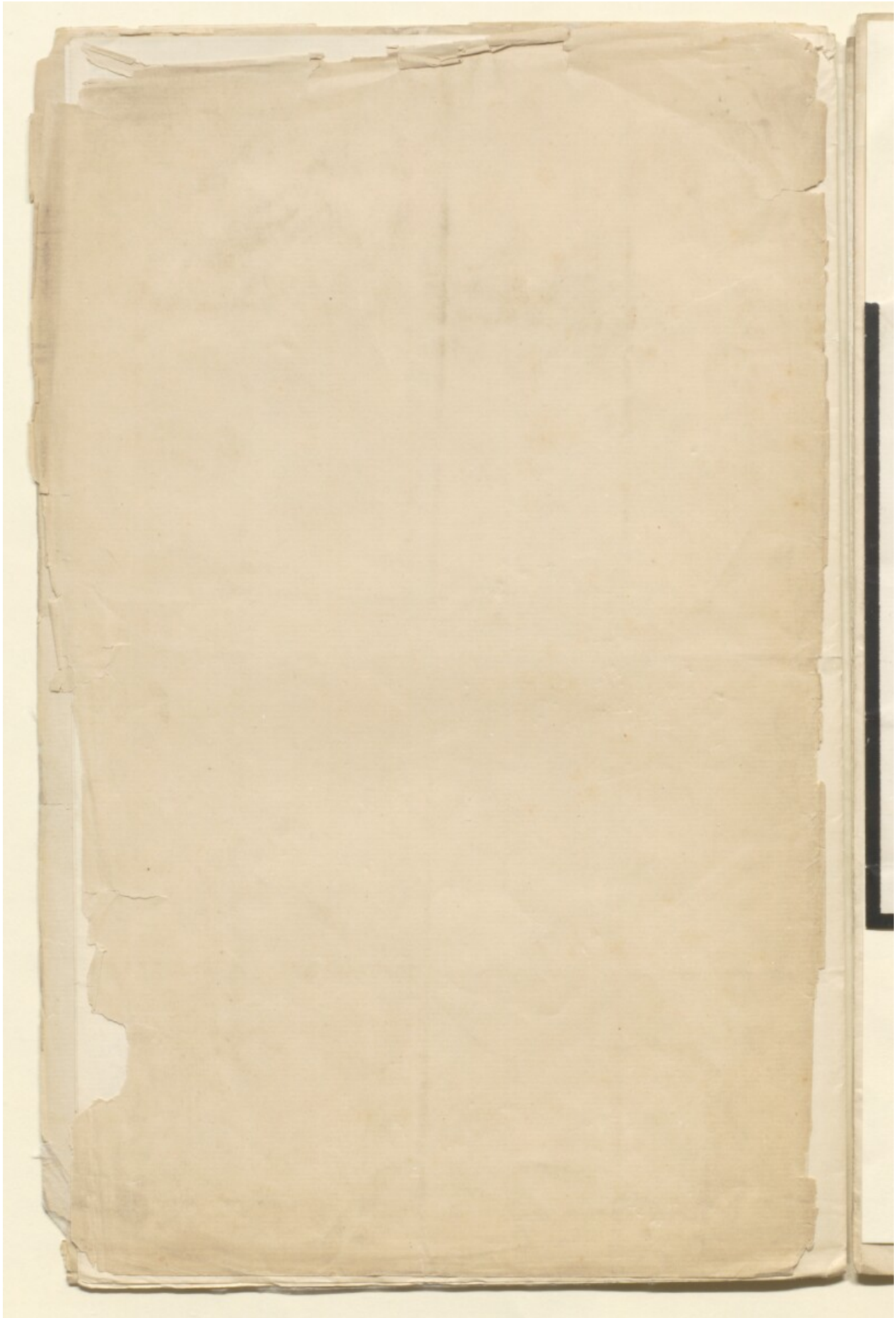
Bombay Castle }
26th October 1871 }

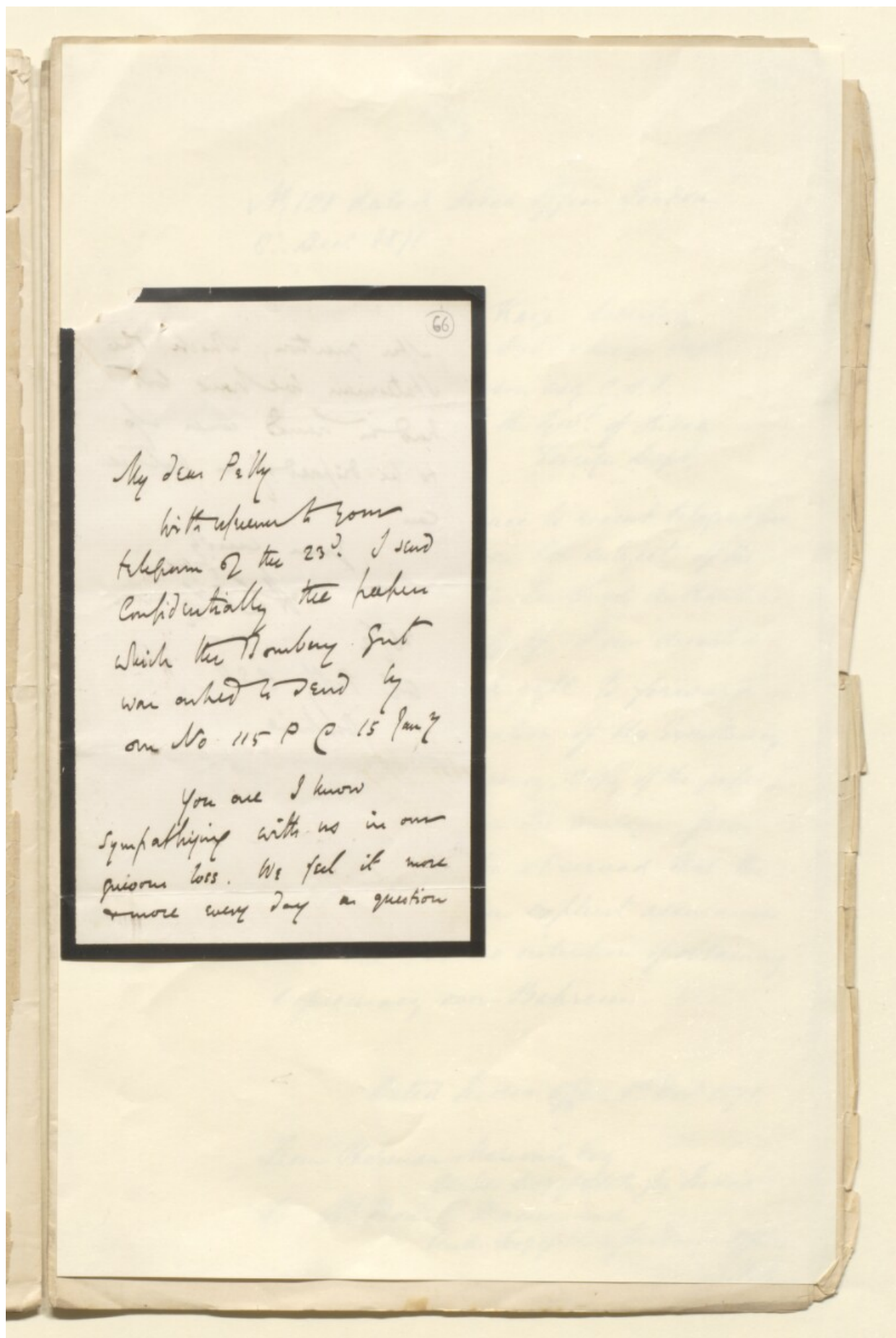
(Signed) H. E. Jackson
Secy to the Government

True Copy
W. H. E. Jackson
Asst. Secy to the Resident
in the Pers. Gulf











after mention, which the
Statesman we have not
had in hand, comes up
to be disposed of as before
can

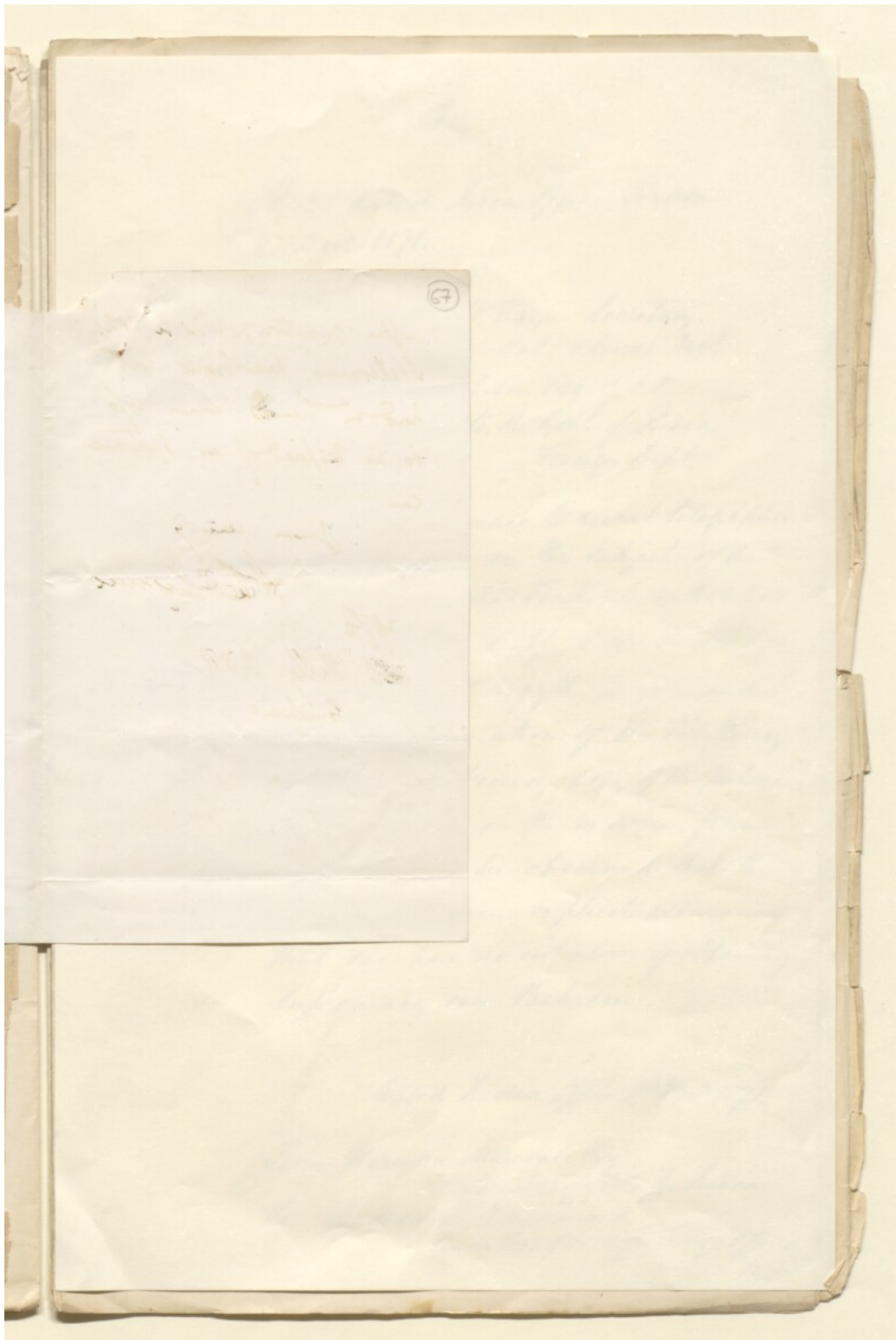
Yours truly

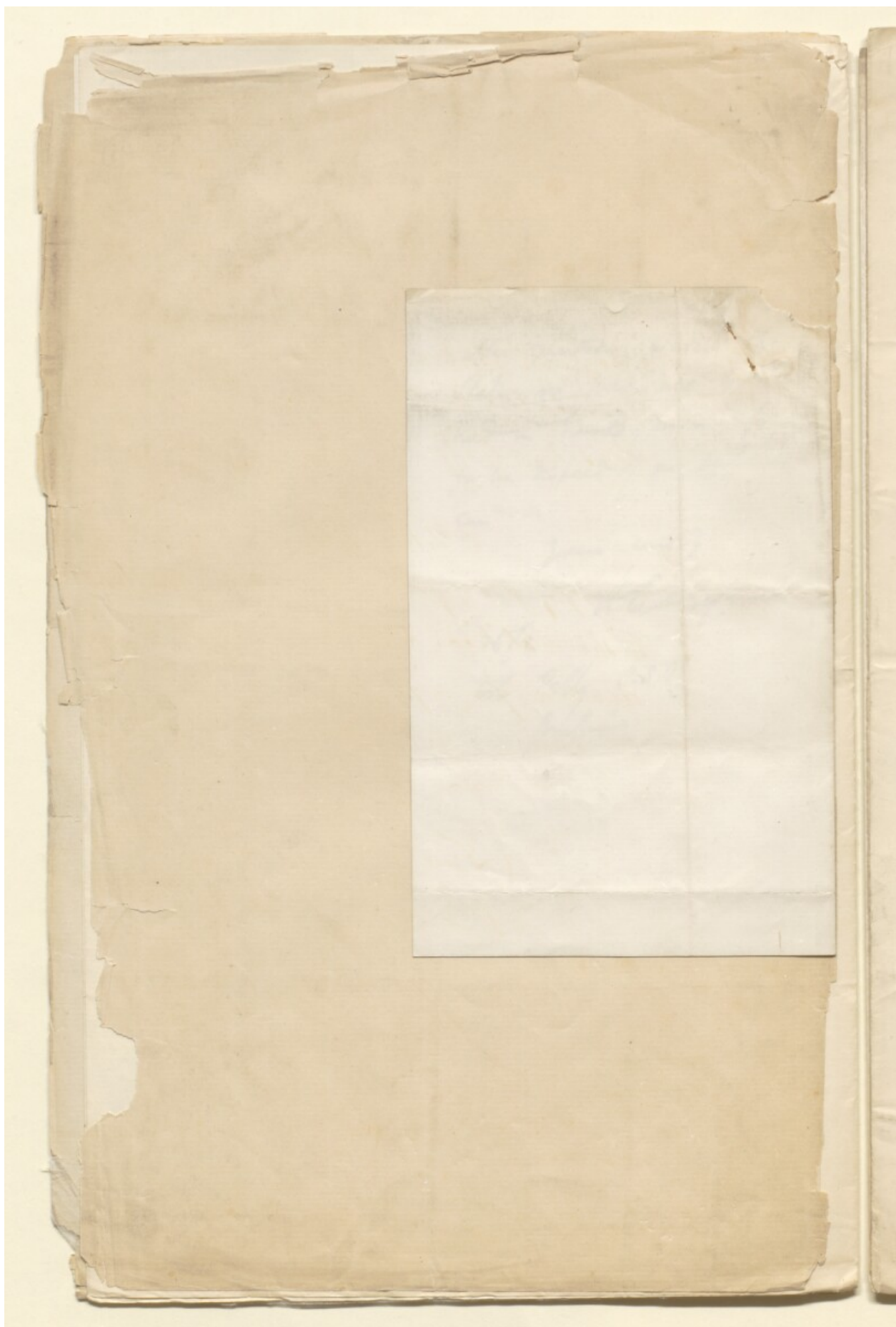
H. Le Poer Wynne

26/2

Col Pelly C.S.P.

Bushire







Copy

N^o 120 dated India Office London
8th Dec^r 1871.

From Sir J. W. Kaye Secretary
Pol^y & Secret Dept.
To C. W. Aitchison Esq C. S. I.
Secy to the Gov^t of India
Foreign Dept.

With reference to recent telegraphic
correspondence on the subject of the
proceedings of the Turkish Authorities
in the Persian Gulf, I am directed
by the Duke of Argyll to forward
for the information of His Excellency
the Viceroy, copy of the papers
To Foreign Office 1st Dec^r 1871 }
From " " 5th " " } noted on the margin, from
which it will be observed that the
Porte have given explicit assurances
that she has no intention of obtaining
supremacy over Bahrein.

Dated India Office 1st Dec^r 1871.

From Herman Merivale Esq
Under Secy of State for India
To Rt. Hon. E. Hammond
Under Secy of State for Foreign Affairs
With



With reference to previous correspondence
 terminating with your letter of 25th ulto. I am
 directed by the Duke of Argyll to forward
 for the information of Earl Granville
 copy of two telegrams from the Viceroy,
 respecting the proceedings of the Turkish
 authorities in the Persian Gulf, especially,
 with reference to Bahrein; and I am to
 state that, in the opinion of His Grace,
 it is advisable that His Ambassador
 at Constantinople should be at once instructed
 to impress upon the Porte the necessity of
 moderation being observed by their authorities
 in the Persian Gulf, with a view to avoiding
 further complications.

Dated Foreign Office 5th Dec^r 1871.

From Lord Enfield Under Secy of State
 for Foreign Affairs
 To Herman Merivale Esq^r
 Under Secy of State for India

With reference to your letter of
 the 1st Inst. I am directed by Earl
 Granville to transmit to you the
 accompanying copy of a despatch from
 Sir Henry Elliot, on the subject of
 the



(69)

the assurances given by the Porte
 that she has no intention of obtaining
 Supremacy over Bahrein, Muscat or
 the Independent Tribes of Southern
 Arabia; and I am to request that
 in laying the same before the Duke
 of Argyll, you will state to His Grace
 with reference to your letter of the 1.st
 Inst., that Lord Granville doubts
 not that the Duke of Argyll will
 consider these assurances sufficiently
 explicit in regard to the intentions
 of the Porte.

N^o 399 of Therapia 14.th Nov 1871.

From His Excellency Sir H. Elliot,
 H.M.'s Ambassador at Constantinople
 To Right Hon. Earl Granville K.G.
 Yr. Yr. Yr.

I saw Sewer Pasha yesterday
 and spoke about the affairs of
 the Persian Gulf, saying that I
 should be glad to be able to renew
 to Her Majesty's Gov^t the assurances
 formerly given by Ali Pasha
 that



That the Porte did not entertain any intention of obtaining supremacy over Bahrein, Muscat, or the Independent Tribes of Southern Arabia, nor contemplate any attack upon them.

His Excellency repeated his assurance but said that a messenger of the Ottoman Genl. had lately been way laid & murdered upon the main land by the Sheikh of Bahrein and that the Porte could not abstain from exacting a suitable reparation.

The punishment of the persons concerned in the outrage would be required, and a pecuniary fine would, as I understood, be probably ~~be~~ insisted on, but no attempt would be made to get supremacy over Bahrein, or to attack the Independent Tribes with a desire to subdue them.

N: 115 P. Of Fort William
16th Jan'y. 1872,

Endorsed by Foreign Dept.

Copy forwarded, confidentially, to the Govt. of Bombay, with
a



(70)
a request that a copy, may, be com-
municated to the Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

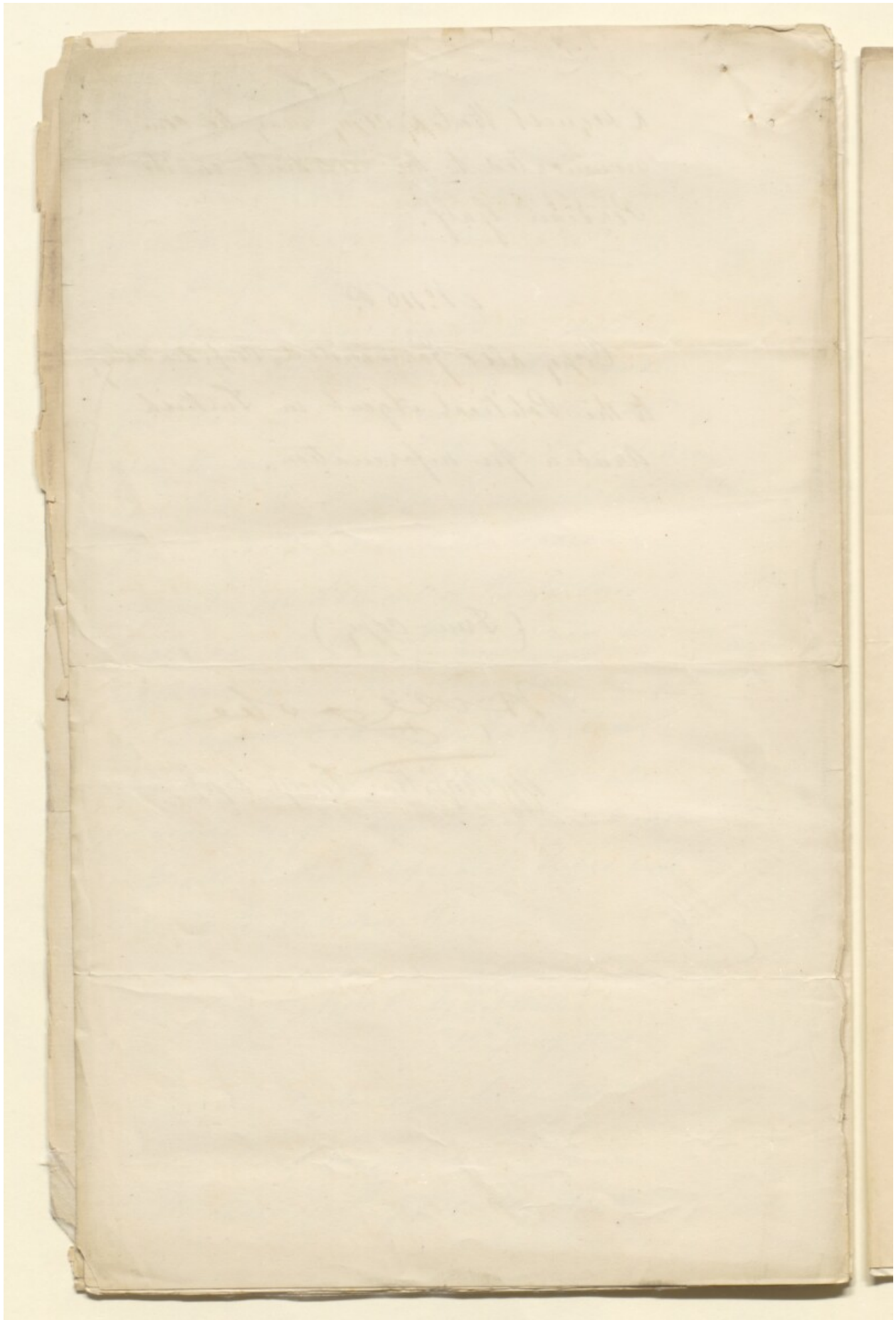
N^o 116 D.

Copy also forwarded, confidentially,
to the Political Agent in Turkish
Arabia for information.

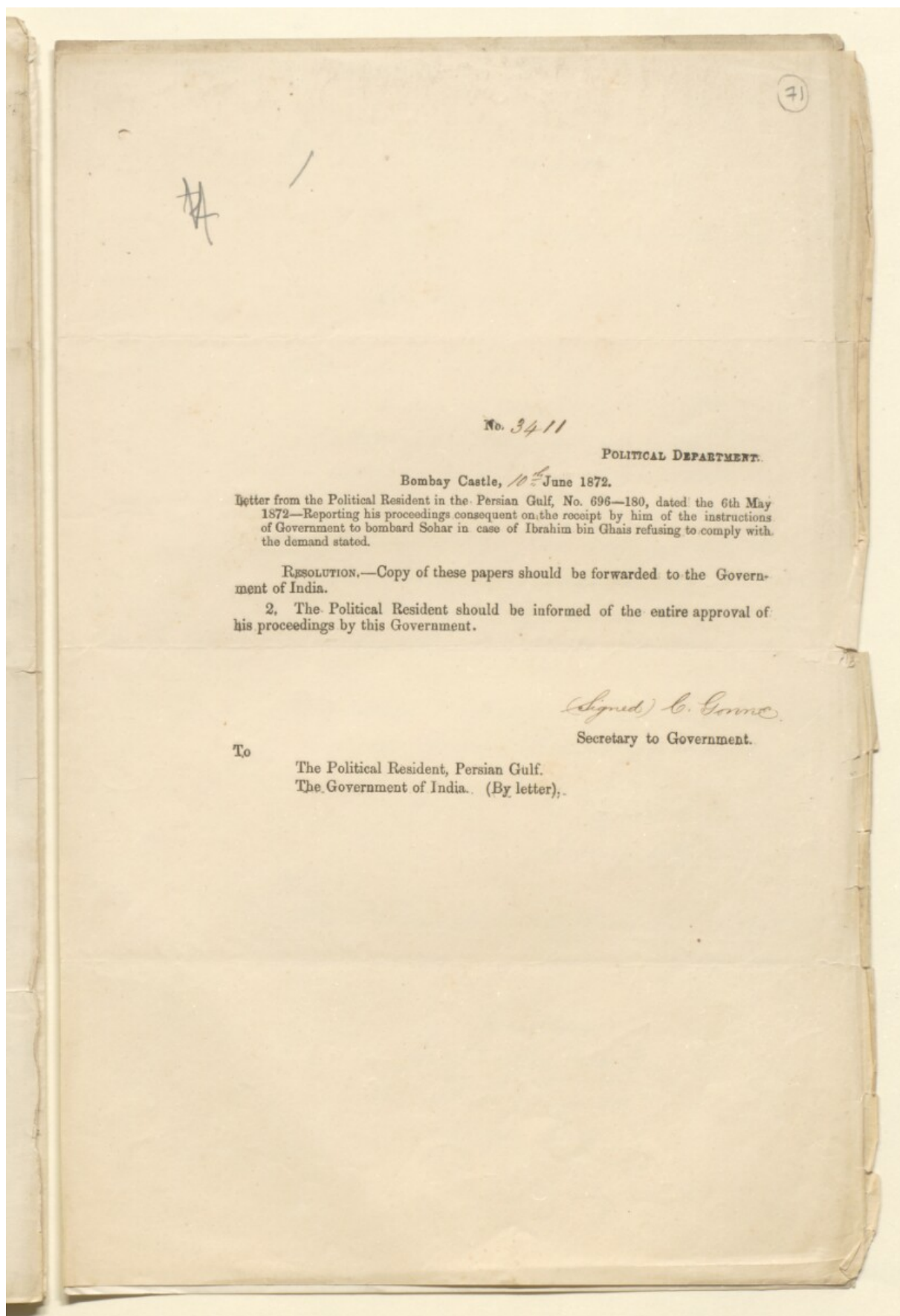
(True copy)

W. S. G. G. G.
Off Registrar Foreign Dept.

L. P. W.



Letter from Charles Gonne, Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay
Castle to The Political Resident, Persian Gulf and The Government of India [71r]
(1/2)



No. 3411

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 10th June 1872.

Letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, No. 696—180, dated the 6th May 1872—Reporting his proceedings consequent on the receipt by him of the instructions of Government to bombard Sohar in case of Ibrahim bin Ghais refusing to comply with the demand stated.

RESOLUTION.—Copy of these papers should be forwarded to the Government of India.

2. The Political Resident should be informed of the entire approval of his proceedings by this Government.

Signed) C. Gonne.
Secretary to Government.

To

The Political Resident, Persian Gulf.
The Government of India. (By letter),

Letter from Charles Gonne, Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay
Castle to The Political Resident, Persian Gulf and The Government of India [71v]
(2/2)

